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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
How much do you intend to spend on back-to-school supplies this year?

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New Nanny

As Nanny McPhee, the sensible antidote to Mary Poppins, Emma Thompson is snaggletoothed and warty.

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This is only the beginning. ... We will continue to educate the people, that they have the right to dissent when officials don't do the right thing.

—Protest organizer Leila Staffler



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Concerned citizens hold a peaceful rally to protest the budget bill that increases lawmakers' discretionary account while reducing education funding and cutting government salary by up to 25 percent, in front of the legislative building on Capital Hill yesterday noon. Only seven of 29 lawmakers came out of their offices to meet with the protesters.

PROTESTERS TO LAWMAKERS:

'Cut your budget, give more to NMC'

» Petition asks OPA to audit Legislature's spending

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Private citizens, government employees, and students held a peaceful rally in front of the legislative building on Capital Hill yesterday noon to protest the House of Representatives' passage of a budget bill increasing lawmakers' annual discretionary fund from \$86,796 to \$130,000 while government employees will get up to 25 percent wage cut in Fiscal Year 2011.

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Feds tour veterans outreach clinic with Kilili

» Fitial welcomes telemedicine opportunity for veterans

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs officials, along with U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, toured the Saipan Veterans Outreach Clinic at the Marina

Heights Plaza II in Puerto Rico yesterday.

Tommy Driskill is the VA Pacific Islands Health Care System rural health coordinator, while Kathy Hass is the community-based outpatient clinic coordinator.

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Weight of evidence vs rape suspect substantial—judge

» \$100,000 cash bail reinstated

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman re-imposed yesterday the

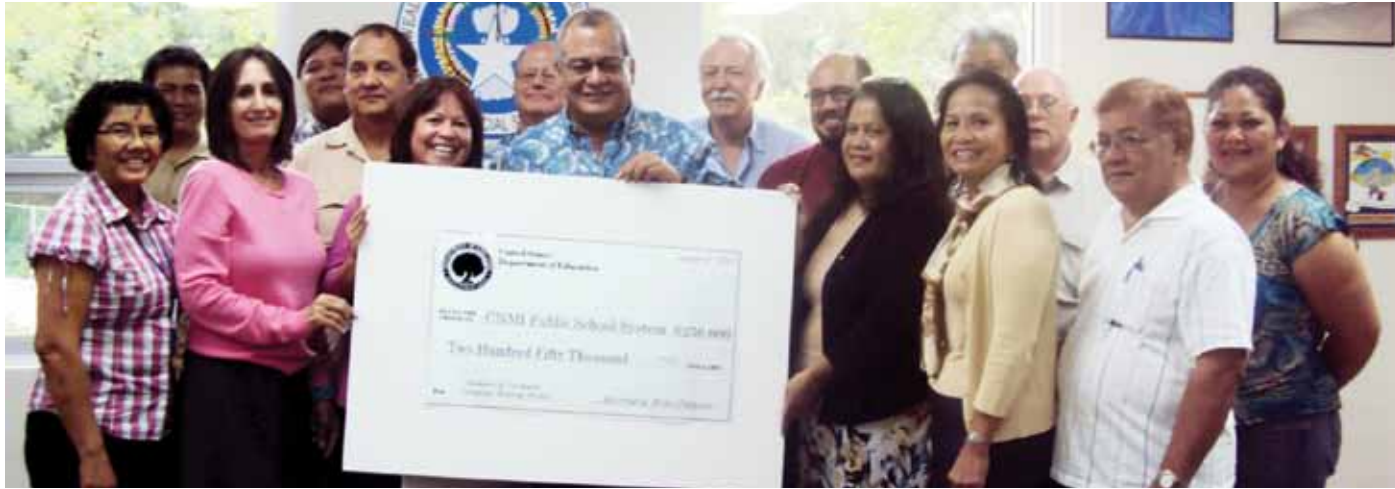
\$100,000 cash bail on the 17-year-old suspect in the rape of a Kagman student, saying there is substantial evidence against Alfred P. Hocog.

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USCIS increases H-1B and L-1 fees. **PAGE 2**
Deadline nears for Pacific-wide music contest. **PAGE 3**

Local

PSS receives \$250K to improve language curriculum



Education officials and Board of Education members receive yesterday from U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili Sablan the giant replica of the \$250,000 grant for the Public School System. The funding will be used to complete the Chamorro dictionary and other needs of the system's Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies program.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The CNMI Public School System received a \$250,000 grant yesterday so it could complete the Chamorro dictionary and to fund other needs of the PSS Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies program.

U.S. Rep. Gregorio Sablan presented PSS officials with a giant replica of the check during yesterday's Board of Education meeting on Capital Hill.

Sablan said PSS will use the funds for the publication of the revised Chamorro-English dictionary, which has been stalled for years due to funding woes.

"Part of educating our people is getting our language preserved, both Chamorro and

Carolinian. It is earmark money which I asked for this particular purpose. The reason we gave it to PSS is because they are very good in what they do...and they will help the agencies complete the dictionary project," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that any balance from the dictionary project will address other needs of the language program such as instructional materials.

Sablan said his office is working on getting \$2 million more for the program. This is on top of the \$8.3 million he is expecting to bring in for teachers' education next fiscal year.

"We are working also on a big project and if we succeed, we will be OK with our educational resources for the next 10 years," said Sablan, who refused to elaborate on the details of the new project.

Recently, the CNMI Chamorro Dictionary Revision Working Groups announced that they have completed more than 90 percent of their initial revision of 9,900 entries in the Chamorro-English dictionary.

Funded by the National Science Foundation as a collaborative effort between the University of California Santa Cruz and the NMI Humanities Council, revisions are being conducted by community members and volunteers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, in partnership with agencies and organizations and

support of numerous individuals in the community.

Foundation funding for the project will end in 2011 and the group will continue the work through volunteers and other support as they may be available from the community.

'Only 15 percent of kids speak native languages'

There have been no new studies on the prevalence of indigenous languages among Commonwealth children since the first survey and assessment done by the Language Policy Commission in 2003.

Based on that last assessment, only 15 percent of students in public schools speak the indigenous languages while the rest use English in and out of their households.

The agency described its finding as "very alarming" and needs to be addressed to prevent the languages from dying.

As part of actions taken to address this, the commission and PSS worked together on implementing and expanding the bilingual program, later named the Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies program.

Offered in primary and middle schools, the program is recommended for expansion to high schools. Besides funding, however, PSS is also finding it difficult to hire instructors for the program.

USCIS increases H-1B and L-1 fees

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Effective immediately, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service will be charging an additional fee of \$2,000 for certain H-1B petitions and \$2,250 for certain L-1A and L-1B petitions postmarked on or after Aug. 14, 2010, pursuant to the passage of Public Law 111-230. The new fees will remain in effect through Sept. 30, 2014.

President Obama signed Public Law 111-230 on Aug. 13, 2010, containing provisions to increase certain H-1B and L-1 petition fees.

These additional fees apply to petitioners who employ 50 or more employees in the United States with more than 50 percent of its employees in the United States in H-1B or L (including L-1A, L-1B and L-2) nonimmigrant status. Petitioners meeting these criteria must submit the fee with an H-1B or L-1 petition filed:

■ Initially to grant an alien nonimmigrant status described in subparagraph (H)(i)(b) or (L) of section 101(a)(15), or

■ To obtain authorization for an alien having such status to change employers.

USCIS is in the process of revising the Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker (Form I-129), and instructions to comply with Public Law 111-230. To facilitate implementation of Public Law 111-230, USCIS recom-

mends that all H-1B, L-1A and L-1B petitioners, as part of the filing packet, include the new fee or a statement of other evidence outlining why this new fee does not apply. USCIS requests that petitioners include a notation of whether the fee is required in bold capital letters at the top of the cover letter. Where USCIS does not receive such explanation and/or documentation with the initial filing, it may issue a Request for Evidence (RFE) to determine whether the petition is covered by the public law. An RFE may be required even if such evidence is submitted, if questions remain.

Eucon extends scholarship program

The Eucon International School has extended its scholarship program this school year due to insistent demand.

The school started classes last week but more students are still coming in, prompting it to extend scholarships to deserving elementary and high school students. Qualified recipients are indigenous residents of the island. They must show an exceptional ability and potential in math, science, and English as well as excellent academic standing.

Applicant with an A+ or 100 grade point average will be given a 50-percent scholarship on their tuition while those with A or 91-99 GPA will get 40 per-

cent. Students with an A- or 90 GPA will get a 30-percent discount on tuition.

Christian Bible Church, the spiritual organization of Eucon International, is sponsoring this scholarship program.

As of this week, Eucon had a total of 146 enrollees, 53 percent of which are foreign students; the rest are local enrollees.

"Eucon International School is working hand in hand with the CNMI government to bring in more foreign students to enhance the edu-tourism industry of CNMI. We believe that education is the best way to improve the economy of CNMI," said Eucon president Dr. Christian Wei. (Moneth G. Deposa)

FREE Developmental Screening

Is your baby or child walking, talking, and doing things like other children their age? Find out! C*DAC will be opening once a month on a Saturday for free developmental screening of infants and children up to 3 years old.

- ❁ Saturday Screening
- ❁ August 21st, 2010
- ❁ 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- ❁ Walk-in, No appointment necessary
- ❁ Conveniently located in Garapan on Beach Road



For more information, call Viola Kaipat or Lydia Santos at Children's Developmental Assistance Center at **664-4830**



Information adapted from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, Learn the Signs. Act Early. Supported in part by project H25MC06112 from the MCHB (Title V, Social Security Act), HRSA, DHHS.

Guard's request for court-appointed investigator OK'd

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court yesterday granted the request for a court-appointed investigator filed by the detention guard who is charged with using his position to force a female ward at the Kagman Juvenile Detention to engage in sex acts.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Robert C. Naraja said that providing Tyron Farley Reyes Fitial a court-appointed investigator would allow him to prepare and mount a complete and proper defense.

"The expense of the investigator shall not exceed the amount of \$1,600," Naraja said.

Joseph James Norita Cama-

cho, the court-appointed defense counsel, declined to disclose their trial strategy but said an investigator is needed to help them conduct additional investigation that would help them mount a complete and proper defense.

Since his client is unable to post bail and remains in custody, Camacho said the assistance

of an investigator is needed to facilitate additional investigation for his defense.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested the 24-year-old

Fitial on June 11 after an indictment was filed charging him with one count of deprivation of rights under color of law.

According to the indictment,

around October 2009 through February 2010, Fitial coerced a child by means of force and threats to engage in sex acts while the minor was a ward at the Kagman Detention and Correctional Facility. Fitial pleaded not guilty.

Applicants sought for Japan exchange program

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

Are you a high school student who wants to learn and experience the Japanese culture?

The Saipan Mayor's Office is now accepting applications for the 2010 KSKK Student Cultural Exchange Program, which is scheduled on Oct. 7 to 14.

Founded in October 1978, the KSKK International Youth Association of Japan is a non-profit organization that aims to promote goodwill between Saipan and Japan through its cultural exchange program.

Vinicia Seman, executive secretary at the Saipan Mayor's Office, told *Saipan Tribune* that the cultural exchange program is open on a first-come, first-served basis to high school students from grades 9 to 12.

Interested high school students must have a valid U.S. passport which does not expire within six months prior

to and throughout the duration of travel, traveler's insurance, and must have a minimum grade point average of 2.5, with clearance from counselor and instructors.

Deadline for submission of application is at noon on Sept. 3. A non-refundable security deposit of \$50 is required upon submission.

Only 11 participants will be chosen to join the cultural exchange program and fly to Japan via Delta Air Lines.

Eleven students and one adult chaperone of the KSKK International Youth Association of Japan were on Saipan from July 24 to 31 to take part in the exchange program.

Throughout their stay, the Japanese students stayed with five host families and visited historical and tourist sites on Saipan, including the CNMI museum, American Memorial Park, Last Command Post, Banzai and Suicide Cliffs, and Mt. Tapochao.

Seman said participants will pay for their own discounted airfare of \$466.27, inclusive of the non-refundable security deposit.

The \$416.27 balance must be paid no later than Sept. 24.

According to Seman, the KSKK International Youth Association of Japan will cover other costs such as transportation, accommodation, entrance fees for educational sightseeing, and three meals per day.

The students must bring their own pocket money, including the \$60 entrance fee to Tokyo Disneyland.

Seman said they recommend that students wear comfortable shoes and bring a small luggage since they will have to walk a lot and carry their own luggage during their stay in Tokyo.

For more information, contact Vinicia Seman at 234-6208 or email at vseman.mos@gmail.com.

Man in 'ice' case gets 3-day prison term

The co-defendant of a CNMI Customs inspector in a case of trafficking of methamphetamine or "ice" entered a guilty plea yesterday in the Superior Court.

Peter Magofna Sablan pleaded guilty to conspiracy, possession of a controlled substance, and trafficking of a controlled substance.

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo sentenced Sablan to three years in jail, all suspended except for three days, with credit for the three days he had already served in prison.

Sablan was released yesterday from the Department of Corrections and placed on three years of supervised probation.

Sablan was also ordered to pay a \$100 fine, \$100 court assessment fee, and \$100 probation service fee, and to forfeit all funds and drugs seized at the time of his arrest.

Sablan will undergo substance abuse counseling at the Community Guidance Center.

Sablan and Customs inspector Joesey S. Maratita were arrested by members of the CNMI

Drug Enforcement Task Force in San Antonio on April 26 after a controlled buy operation during which a confidential source was able to buy "ice" from the defendants.

Last July, Maratita pleaded guilty to two counts of illegal possession of a controlled substance and one count of conspiracy to commit trafficking of a controlled substance.

Govendo ordered Maratita to spend 30 days in jail with credit for the two days he had already served. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Orientation for int'l, evening NMC students on Monday

The Northern Marianas College will be hosting student orientation for international students and evening students on Monday, Aug. 23, 2010, from 5pm to 8pm at the NMC Library.

The orientation aims to teach incoming students about the various programs, services and resources available at the college. It will feature representatives from the different programs and offices of the Student Services Division, such as Counseling and Disability Support, Career Services, and Financial Aid.

The orientation will also feature presentations by the Associated Students of NMC

on "How to Get Involved" in student activities and organizations, dean of Student Services Leo Pangelinan on "Choosing a Major and Career," and business instructor Rik Villegas on "Having a Successful College Experience."

Ice breaker activities will also be facilitated by student ambassadors from the College Access Challenge Project. For additional information, visit www.nmcnet.edu. *(NMC)*

Military training on Farallon de Medinilla

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Aug. 23-26, from 7am to 5pm.

The general public, espe-

cially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from these areas during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. *(USN)*

Deadline nears for Pacific-wide music contest

If you live in the Pacific, are an unsigned, unpublished musician, there is now only one week remaining to submit your best original song for inclusion into this year's Pacific Break competition.

Entries officially close on Sept. 1 and with the promise of playing live at Fest'napuan in Vanuatu as the winning prize, response to this year's Pacific Break competition has been more active than previous years.

Over the course of this year's competition Pacific Break has cast its Pacific net further and wider than it has before, connecting the competition to territories like Palau, Saipan and

Pohnpei for the first time in its quest to discover the best unsigned musicians the Pacific has to offer.

A diverse range of musical styles from a range of influences has once again emerged with everything from Justin Bieber inspired pop to traditional roots and reggae and heavy metal rock music.

Pacific Break coordinator Sally McMahon said, "It's been great to see that musicians who

have entered their music in previous years have been sending in their latest creations for Pacific Break 2010. Last year's winner, Emmanuel Mailau and 2008 favourite Samantha Clark are back in 2010 for another shot at the

major prize. It will be exciting to see who is chosen as this year's winner of Pacific Break with so many talented Pacific musicians vying for the title."

Radio Australia's Pacific Break competition is now in its third year of operation and continues to grow across the Pacific, working in close association with festival partners Fest'napuan in Vanuatu.

"Pacific Break provides a musical connection with audiences from across the Pacific and an authentic opportunity for unsigned, unpublished original musicians to have their music heard," said Radio Australia's chief executive director Mike McCluskey.

Radio Australia's 24 hour FM network now transmits across 11 Pacific urban centers. *(PR)*

Tinian corp. says waitress was not an employee

A Tinian-based corporation denied yesterday the allegations of a waitress that the company had failed to pay her overtime compensation, saying she was not their employee.

Henie Cruz, Huang Shun Corp. assistant general manager, told *Saipan Tribune* that she had processed Song's employment papers with the Department of Labor on Sept. 3, 2009, but later withdrew them on Sept. 15, 2009, because the waitress had ran off with her boyfriend.

Cruz said they canceled the employment because the company would be liable if something happened to her.

She said Song had also filed a

Labor complaint for alleged unpaid wages, but it turned out she was not their employee at that time. Cruz said Labor dismissed that complaint.

A copy of the Labor order issued by Jerry Cody showed that Song, through counsel Colin Thompson, filed a notice of withdrawal on April 9, 2010.

Thompson stated that Song was withdrawing all claims before Labor and that she would be pursuing those claims in federal court.

Cruz said Song also filed a discrimination complaint in Hawaii, but their lawyer, G. Anthony Long, had already answered the case.

Song, a Chinese national, sued Huang Shun Corp. and five unnamed co-defendants for violation of Fair Labor Standards Act and breach of employment contract.

In her complaints, Song claimed that she began working for Huang Shun Corp. in May 2008, working seven days a week, 52 weeks a year. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In the Matter of the) FCD CN CIVIL
Petition for the) ACTION
Change of Name of:) NO. 10-0408

)
NELSON HAIRENIOS) **NOTICE OF
Petitioner) HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on August 31, 2010, at 9:00am in Courtroom 205A, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 2nd day of August, 2010.

Bernadita Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

RAPE

From Page 1

Wiseman reconsidered his earlier decision to lower Hocog's bail at the request of the Office of the Attorney General.

FEDS

From Page 1

dinator.

They also met with veterans last night at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The Saipan Veterans Outreach Clinic is at Dr. Norma Ada and Dr. James Hofschneider's clinic, the Medical Associates in the Pacific, which has signed an agreement with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Ruth Coleman, executive assistant for military and veterans affairs, said the dedication of the Saipan Veterans Outreach Clinic will be held on Nov. 12, although the clinic has started providing services to veterans since late last year.

Dr. James E. Hastings, director of the VA Pacific Islands Health Care System, did not make it to the tour that Sablan's office planned.

The clinic tour came minutes after an orientation for some 20 veterans.

Driskill and Hass also met yesterday with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who welcomed the news that the CNMI will soon be the latest addition to the

"Although these alleged crimes were committed with other co-defendants, Hocog, according to the testimony at the preliminary hearing, was the principal attacker and the one who continuously beat the victim unconscious," said the judge in a written order issued yesterday.

network of the Veterans Affairs Pacific Island Health Care System, based in Honolulu, Hawaii.

He said this opportunity is welcome news to the central government as it would open doors to greater accessibility for the population of veterans and service members in the CNMI.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said Driskill and Hass updated the governor on the ongoing efforts to establish an outreach clinic on Saipan that will serve veterans through the advance technology of telemedicine.

Driskill informed Fitial that Ada's clinic will take on the added role of serving as Saipan's Veterans Outreach Clinic.

"Patients qualified under the VA program will be able to avail of these benefits by way of the network's T-1 connectivity. Through this form to technological communication, Dr. Ada's clinic will establish high-end linkages with the VA Clinic in Guam and the VA PIHCS in Hawaii. Governor Fitial was very much upbeat that this sort of technological advancement will soon be made available to veterans and members in Saipan," he said.

Fitial said "this is great news for our

Hocog, together with three other suspects, have been charged with the kidnapping and rape of the 15-year-old victim.

Hocog, through counsel Joaquin DLG. Torres, had asked the court on Monday to reduce the bail to \$40,000 and that he be released to his father

community. Not only will this provide greater access to their healthcare needs, but the technology of telemedicine will also reduce the costs incurred by families required to travel abroad to avail of their military health benefits."

"We have supported this movement and we will continue to support its development for the benefits of our very well-deserving veterans and service members in the CNMI," he added.

The opening of the Saipan Veterans Outreach Clinic project has been stalled for about a decade.

Coleman said Drs. Ada and Hofschneider have been seeing veteran patients since last year for medical attention or health care services. The clinic has also hired Dr. Kendall Gladding, a clinical psychologist.

Previously, service members and veterans needing medical attention or health care services had to go to the Commonwealth Health Center or other off-island facilities.

Coleman said the unofficial count of CNMI veterans and active service members is 1,200, although only some 200 have so far enrolled in the Veterans Affairs Health Care System.

with the posting of \$2,000 cash and his father's house, valued at \$40,000. Wiseman reduced the bail amount to \$75,000 and allowed a 10-percent deposit, together with the property bond.

This prompted assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher to urge the court to reconsider.

In granting the government's motion, Wiseman he considered factors such as charged offenses, the weight of the evidence, the potential threat to the safety of individuals and to members of the community, as well, as the possibility of flight to avoid prosecution.

Wiseman noted that testimony at the preliminary hearing described the egregious manner in which Hocog allegedly kidnapped, assaulted, and sexually abused the 15-year-old victim.

In considering the weight of the evidence, the judge said it has been argued that the only evidence against Hocog is the confession of a co-suspect—one who is not credible because of a motivation to cooperate with the government in exchange for a "sweetheart deal."

As Gallagher pointed out, though, Wiseman said the co-suspect's deal includes a prison term of 40 years with at least 10 to 20 years to serve.

Based on such a representation from an officer of the court, Wiseman said he finds it appropriate to consider this factor as warranting the court's finding that the weight of the evidence against Hocog is substantial.

"In other words, there is a substantial

probability that defendant may have committed the crimes charged and that conditions less than those imposed would not minimize the risk of threat to the safety of the community or a risk of flight," he said.

In addition, Wiseman said, the primary concern of every government is a concern for the safety and the lives of its citizens.

He said Hocog's threat to the community is reflected in his alleged conduct in viciously attacking and sexually abusing an underage victim.

"The court finds that [Hocog] does present a threat to the safety of the residents of Saipan," he said.

The charges filed against the suspects carry severe penalties. Sexual assault carries a maximum of 30 years in prison, with a mandatory minimum of eight years in prison. Kidnapping has maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

"Therefore, [Hocog's] motivation to flee is extremely high," Wiseman said.

He said Hocog's release on any other terms at this time would be inadequate to protect the community and prevent the risk of flight.

Police said it was Hocog who first beat up the victim and raped her on June 16, 2010.

Hocog turns 18 on Aug. 30. He is being charged as an adult. His co-defendants are Joseph C. Camacho Jr. 31, Angel Jess Santos, 21, and Ivan Jones Castro. 33. All suspects pleaded not guilty.

BUDGET

From Page 1

Only seven of 29 members of the 17th Legislature, mostly Republicans, came out of their offices to meet the protesters.

The protesters, led by organizer Leila Staffler, also want the Legislature to give more funding to the Northern Marianas College and the Public School System, as well as to other essential public services.

"This is only the beginning. I'm happy with the turnout and we'll get more as we go along. If they try to pass it cowardly in another island, we'll come again. We will continue to educate the people, that they have the right to dissent when officials don't do the right thing," Staffler said in an interview.

The protesters said there is public outrage against lawmakers who put themselves first before students and other essential services.

"I'd like to tell the senators to look at the bill carefully and consider not giving outrageous increases to lawmakers' budget. ...NMC is already on show-cause status and they are given less funding," said Ed Propst, who was also at the rally.

He said it is "mind blowing" that lawmakers will get an increase in their operational budget when government employees will only have 64 hours per pay period in FY 2011.

"That's a slap in the face," he added. Holding placards that read "I thought it was austerity" and "Essential services shouldn't pay for your promises," the protesters had one resounding message for lawmakers.

That is, to "do the right thing" by not raising the discretionary funding for each lawmaker, and by giving NMC at least \$621,188 more for the college to meet the maintenance-of-effort agreement between the U.S. Department of Education and the CNMI governor.

They said the 50-percent increase in

lawmakers' discretionary or operational funding on top of their annual salary will be enough to cover the shortfall for NMC so that its accreditation won't be jeopardized.

They also want the Legislature to give additional funding to PSS and other essential services.

Ron Hodges, also a protester, said the "enormous discretionary account of lawmakers should be eliminated."

"I would hope the Senate would do the right thing," he said.

"Essential services = social equity," "Only beginning" and "Audit the slush funds" were also some of the slogans carried by the protesters who stood under the scorching heat of the sun, only to get soaked in rainwater later that day.

"This is a solidarity movement for good decisions," said former Board of Education member Marja Lee Taitano, holding up a placard that says, "Lead by example."

The protesters assembled in front of the legislative building shortly before 11:30am, and dispersed after a downpour at about 12:15pm, although some of them stayed until after 12:13pm.

Two petitions

Former representative Tina Sablan, who was also at the silent protest, began circulating two petitions related to the Legislature.

One of the petitions asks the 17th Legislature not to increase its operational budget, and to pass a "timely, balanced budget for FY 2011 that prioritizes essential services, payment of government obligations, and an independent desk audit."

The second petition asks the Office of the Public Auditor to conduct a formal audit of the CNMI Legislature's expenditures from fiscal years 2005 to 2010.

The petition asks for a review of each lawmaker's individual operational accounts, each of the committee, leadership, and minority accounts, and any and all accounts under the control

of the Legislature.

"We further request that the audit report be completed and released for public viewing with all deliberate speed, and not later than six months from the end of Fiscal Year 2010," the petition reads.

People wanting to join the silent protest continued to trickle in past 12:15pm, but because of the rain, they just signed the petition and left.

Former House speaker Arnold I. Palacios and United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed and board of directors chair Ronnie Doca also arrived after the crowd of protesters had already left.

Passing motorists also honked their horns to show solidarity with the protesters.

There were also children at the silent protest. One of them was Toby Verdager, an 11-year-old incoming 6th grader at William S. Reyes Elementary School.

"For the most part, I am here because I want our schools to get more funds," he said. He tagged along with his mother.

Jordan Bocago, a PSS employee, said he heard about the rally yesterday morning and decided to join.

"A lot of money are re-allocated to legislators instead of PSS and NMC. That's wrong because they're taking away from the kids," he said.

David B. Guerrero, a private sector employee, said it is unbelievable that lawmakers would increase their office budget while at the same time subject most government employees to salary cuts and unpaid holidays.

"Another thing is that they squashed the debate on the budget bill. I'm here to support debate on the bill. I am disappointed that the lawmakers who voted yes on the budget bill are not here except for Congressman Camacho, but I'm not surprised," he said.

Where are the lawmakers?

The House members who came out of

their offices to meet with the protesters included Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), and Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan).

Senate floor leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) and Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) also spent time with the protesters in front of the legislative building.

Except for floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), no Covenant Party members or other independents who voted on the bill came out of the front door of the legislative building.

Camacho initially intended to leave the legislative building by the side door but the media caught up with him while he was already in his pickup truck. He later got down from his truck and talked with some of the protesters.

He said there are "lots of misconceptions" about the budget bill.

"We didn't cut the budget for NMC and PSS. We got the numbers from the governor. We just followed the governor's advice," he said, adding that he understands the public's concern.

Camacho also said the increase in discretionary funds will not go into lawmakers' own pockets but will go toward providing more services to the public; he did not specify these services.

Camacho said giving increased budget to the Legislature is a good investment. He said the House is also investing in tourism, for example, by giving more to the Marianas Visitors Authority. He said the work hour cuts will only be for a year.

He said the same Republican members of the House who are against a \$130,000 annual discretionary funding previously had \$135,000 funding.

The parking spaces of Covenants and independents were empty long before the 11:30am lunch break.

Rep. Ralph Demapan's (Cov-Saipan) car was headed for the legislative building when it stopped for a few minutes, then turned around and left.

Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogunoro

(Cov-Saipan) did not leave her office, which is the one directly facing the protesters.

Tebuteb, for his part, said he welcomes the public's participation on an important issue such as the CNMI budget.

It's now up to the Senate

The House passed the \$132 million budget bill on Wednesday on a 12-7 vote. House Bill 17-96, House Substitute 2, is now with the Senate.

Reyes said he would ask his fellow senators to maintain the \$86,796 annual discretionary allowance for lawmakers and reject the increase to \$130,000. He would also ask for more funding for NMC, among other things.

"There's tremendous outrage by the public when the House passed the budget as it was drafted. People couldn't believe this is happening. I'm embarrassed with this action by my fellow lawmakers. It's difficult to face your constituents if you know you made a wrong decision," Reyes said.

The Senate will hold a leadership meeting on Monday morning, and is set to hold a session on Tuesday on Tinian.

Yumul, for his part, said he hopes that the Senate will incorporate the necessary changes to the budget bill, including more funding for NMC.

"I'm also hoping that once the amended budget bill gets back to the House, it will be accepted by the majority of the House members and not rejected, so that it can be sent to the governor," he said.

Failure to pass a budget before the start of FY 2011 on Oct. 1 will force the government to shut down as required by a constitutional amendment last year.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial identified a total of \$149.171 million in projected resources for FY 2011. Of this figure, \$132 million is available for government operations.

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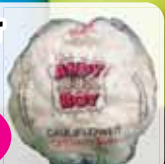
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Opinion

Hafa Adail

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

China's rise, Japan's reversal: Predominance is not ordained

In the 1980s, when pundits mulled the supposed economic threat from Japan, few would have dreamed that Japan's sun would set so soon.

In the 1990s, Japan wallowed. In the second quarter of this year it was surpassed by China as the world's No. 2 economy.

For the quarter, Japan tallied a gross domestic product of \$1.2 trillion. China came in at \$1.3 trillion, just less than a third the size of the U.S. economy. Still, its performance marks what is perhaps the greatest economic transformation in human history: 300 million Chinese lifted out of poverty in the space of some 30 years. What was once a dirt-poor nation had become the world's largest exporter and the biggest car market.

In 1978, China crawled out of the chaos of the Cultural Revolution and began putting market economics to work, first in agriculture and then in other industries. In the 1990s, the country grew at the breakneck pace of 10 percent or so a year.

Meanwhile, Japan's stock market and property bubble had popped and the country entered its "lost decade."

Over those years, China's government sector shrank as a proportion of the economy. Japan's ballooned. There is an obvious lesson here for our policymakers.

China's rise has been spectacular, but its future is hardly assured. Its banking and finance system is underdeveloped, corruption is a continuing problem, its population is aging, it remains a one-party authoritarian state, and in recent years it has begun shielding selected industries from competition—a prescription for stagnation, at least in those sectors.

But at this moment, China's future seems boundless and bright, just as Japan's did in the 1980s—a reminder that no nation's rise or continued predominance is ordained.

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Hope amid chilling prospects

By TIM RUTTEN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The concluding volume in the magisterial historical tetralogy Richard Rhodes calls *The Making of the Nuclear Age* bears a weighty subtitle that hints at its somewhat discursive nature.

The Twilight of the Bombs: Recent Challenges, New Dangers, and the Prospects for a World Without Nuclear Weapons also is perhaps the most journalistic (though Rhodes always has been as dogged a reporter as he is a researcher) and prescriptive of the volumes in this remarkable series.

That series began with the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Making of the Atomic Bomb*, one of the rare accounts of atomic origins praised by physicists, historians and politicians of both parties alike. It was followed by *Dark Sun: The Making of the Hydrogen Bomb* and, three years ago, by *Arsenals of Folly: The Making of the Nuclear Arms Race*. The latter cast vital new light on the roles Mikhail Gorbachev, who was traumatized by the realization that all the horrific damage done by the Chernobyl reactor meltdown could have been duplicated by a single 12-kiloton nuclear bomb, and Ronald Reagan, the Cold Warrior brave enough to dream of a nuclear-weapon-free world, played in bringing the Soviet-American arms race to an end.

Rhodes writes in his new book that he originally intended the book's material to be part of *Arsenals of Folly*, and he has made a sound decision in letting it stand on its own. The difference in tone between this volume and the other three seems, in this context, appropriate—indeed, required—because giving this history such searching scrutiny without reaching for intellectual and moral conclusions would be somehow unnatural.

"I've always felt that these four books that I've written are kind of a tragic epic of the 20th century," Rhodes recently told an interviewer. "In the epigraph of my book it says, 'Mankind invents the means of its own destruction.' And where does the human race go from that? We're still mixed in with all of that. ..."

Nuclear weapons, he continues, are "vast destructive forces encompassed in this small, portable mechanism. They have no earthly use that I can see except to destroy whole cities full of human beings. ... There's a reason why no one has exploded one in anger since 1945. The risk is too great."

One of the subtle insights Rhodes magnifies here is the idea that the long cold peace between the United States and Soviet Union was a more precarious arrangement than conventional opinion usually credits, and that the two countries' sometimes joint, sometimes separate efforts—usually secret—to prevent nuclear proliferation were, in the long run, more efficacious than the strategic doctrine of mutually assured destruction. "The Twilight of the Bombs" brims with intriguing anecdotes, often offered only in passing. For example:

"In 1983, shaken by the Reagan Administration's belligerent military buildup, and misjudging the intent of a major NATO field exercise in West Germany called Able Archer, which included a practice

run-up to nuclear war, the Soviet leadership under Yuri Andropov had very nearly launched a preemptive nuclear strike against the United States. Though it all but escaped public notice, the Able Archer incident was the Cuban Missile Crisis of its day."

Reflecting on its lessons a few years later, Gorbachev would tell former President Richard Nixon that if one superpower kept building weapons, but the other didn't, "the one that arms will not gain anything from it. The weaker party could just explode its nuclear stockpile, even on its own territory, which would mean suicide for it and a slow death for the opponent."

That was the wisdom that led the first President George Bush to unilaterally scrap the huge American arsenal of both land- and sea-based nuclear weapons and to begin the process of helping the new Russia consolidate the old Soviet Union's dispersed nuclear weapons under its sole control. It was that unheralded act of statesmanship—continued under subsequent administrations—that guaranteed that we don't now confront the insecurity of nuclear stocks in four or five other countries of uncertain stability.

Several of the most instructive sections of *The Twilight of the Bombs* shed new, instructive light on these nonproliferation successes.

The United States, for example, acted unilaterally to prevent both South Korea and Taiwan from developing nuclear weapons; Brazil and Argentina were persuaded to abandon nuclear ambitions by post-Cold War frankness about the intricacy and expense of such programs.

There's a particularly good chapter on how former President Jimmy Carter's personal diplomacy in 1994 helped prevent another Korean War, though curiously nothing about how the so-called Agreed Framework worked out then has fallen to pieces under the weight of North Korea's mendacity and hysterical internal politics. (Some exploration of that problem would have given this book something potentially important to say about the vexed problem of Iran, concerning which the author is silent.)

Rhodes' exploration of the South African nuclear program is particularly enlightening, as cooperation between American and Soviet intelligence along with deftly applied pressure diplomacy delayed Pretoria's weapons program and ultimately led the white supremacist government to destroy its small nuclear arsenal.

There's a lengthy discussion of the run-up to the second Iraq war that doesn't add particularly to our knowledge of those dubious events, though Rhodes does disclose that—before abandoning its nuclear program—Saddam Hussein's regime had built and tested a so-called "dirty bomb" for use against the Iranians. (The test failed because Baghdad's nuclear scientists and engineers were incompetent.) Some of this book's most chilling passages, however, reflect the author's acceptance of analysts' opinions that nuclear terrorism may be much more technically feasible than generally admitted.

In the end, Rhodes' conclusion is that the only safety in a nuclear age is an age without nuclear weapons.

How that entirely unreasonable aim can be achieved in an unrea-

See HOPE on Page 7

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A Muslim's faith in America

By **HARIS TARIN**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

When my parents decided to leave their war-ravaged homeland of Afghanistan in the 1980s, they had the option of migrating to a number of different countries, but sought one that they could make their "home." You see, my father was a government official in the Afghan Education Ministry, before the Russian invasion and the subsequent takeover by the Taliban. He was tasked with modernizing the Afghan educational system while also ensuring that core, centuries-old Afghan values were preserved.

The assignment took him all over the world—from Australia to India to Malaysia and a host of other Muslim-majority countries. Yet no nation left a lasting impact on him until his visit to the United States in 1972.

During his extensive travels from coast to coast and many places in between, he established friendships he never imagined were possible with people of a different faith, culture and skin color. He marveled at the openness and welcoming nature of the American people and government. Little did he know then that in a matter of three decades, he and my mother would choose the U.S. as their adopted homeland, and that he would be buried in its soil.

As young children, we would ask him why he chose this coun-

try. He would calmly respond: "The acceptance of my faith that I received in my travels through this country, I would not be able to find anywhere else."

He would tell us about the people who respected his religious practice of praying five times a day and created spaces for him to pray in. He would fondly recall how warm and open people were.

Yet today, I am afraid for my children. I am afraid that when they turn the TV on, or listen to the radio (which I now turn off when we are in the car), they will receive a very different message from the one my father shared with us. The message they hear today is of intolerance. Whether it be about an Islamic center in New York blocks from Ground Zero or a mosque in Temecula, Calif., their faith is being openly and viciously maligned, and they themselves are made to feel responsible for the attacks on 9/11.

My children were born here, and they consider themselves as wholly American, but I fear that the current discourse about their faith and their houses of worship will have a devastating effect on them.

My father knew something greater about America than what is spouted by Sarah Palin, Newt Gingrich and the host of professional bigots who have built a cottage industry out of Muslim-baiting. He knew that the power of America is in its acceptance and openness.

Gingrich is right about one thing. There are no churches or synagogues in places such as Saudi Arabia. But that is precisely the reason so many Muslim immigrants like my father chose not

to make a home there or in other similarly restrictive countries. He knew that his children would be better able to worship in a culture of freedom and openness.

I am secretly relieved that my father did not live long enough to see the current controversy surrounding the center in New York City. I am happy that his experience of his adopted homeland was one of friendship and acceptance. I am proud that his best friends, my godparents, are American Jews who loved my father and brought us to the U.S., hosting us in their home until we were able to settle in.

But I'm left wondering: What do I tell my 10-year old daughter, Hanan, and my 8-year-old son, Rayyan, when they ask me why fear-mongers in Tennessee, New York, Florida and California don't want a mosque or Muslims as their neighbors?

Both for their sakes and my own, I will share with them their grandfather's stories. I will encourage them to become active citizens who will ensure that the tolerance and openness their grandfather experienced decades ago in America will be cherished and maintained for others who yearn for it in the decades to come.

I will refuse to allow the voices of fear to minimize my father's experiences and degrade the America he fell in love with. My children deserve better. We all do.

Haris Tarin is the director of the Washington office of the Muslim Public Affairs Council. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Timid surge, rampant corruption make US troops sitting ducks

By **JOHN B. QUIGLEY**
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The July vote in the House of Representatives on funding the war in Afghanistan should have come as a wake-up call to the Obama administration. One hundred fourteen members of the House, mainly Democrats, voted to stop the physical and financial bleeding that the Afghanistan war is inflicting on the American taxpayer.

And last month a majority in the House of Representatives voted to cut \$4 billion from an aid package for Afghanistan, out of concern over the corruption that Afghan President Hamid Karzai seems unable to stop.

Petty corruption—bribes to officials to get permits or to get out of jail on trumped-up charges—is worsening. A recent survey by Integrity Watch, a nonprofit organization that tracks corruption in Afghanistan, showed that the amounts Afghans must pay to officials have doubled over the last three years.

Our efforts to stop corruption in aid projects are backfiring. When we sidestep local officials thought to be skimming, we turn them and other local power brokers against us. There does not seem to be a way of ensuring that project funds are used properly without damaging our own interests in the process.

Just as we are trying to drive the Taliban out of areas they control, the Taliban seems to be on an offensive of its own, es-

pecially in the formerly secure north of the country. President Asif Ali Zardari of neighboring Pakistan says that we are losing "hearts and minds" to the Taliban.

Pakistan figures significantly in the Afghanistan picture. Al-Qaeda now seems to be stronger in Pakistan than in Afghanistan, raising the question of whether we are focusing on the right country.

The troop drawdown promised for summer 2011 will now, according to Defense Secretary Robert Gates, only be modest. We will apparently maintain a high level of troops after 2011.

At the same time, we seem to be giving up on making Afghanistan a peaceful place under non-Taliban rule. Instead the focus is on targeting high-level Taliban personnel for assassination.

Karzai wants to negotiate a settlement with the Taliban—a solution we have adamantly opposed. But recent indications are that we are moving closer to Karzai's approach. Why we need so many troops there with a new, more limited objective, has not been explained.

Missile strikes to assassinate inevitably cause "collateral damage." Reports continue of death to Afghan civilians. U.S. officers and local officials typically give conflicting accounts of the circumstances and the number of casualties.

And a recent directive may make the situation worse. Gen. David Petraeus has instructed his officers in the field that they are not permitted to restrict their troops in use of force beyond the rules he sets

for the entire army. Formerly, low-level officers could do so, based on circumstances they find.

Even though we seem not to be headed toward a favorable outcome in Afghanistan, we continue to incur unacceptable cost. The financial cost is huge, but the more serious cost is human.

Casualty figures have been climbing as we insert more troops and put them into more exposed situations in rural areas. The death toll is rising for American troops, but perhaps even more troubling is the high level of serious injuries that leave soldiers physically or mentally unsound.

Ironically, our improved medical care for combatants makes the human cost of warfare more evident. Many who might have died in previous wars are evacuated, but with injuries that will affect them for the rest of their lives.

What we are doing in Afghanistan stokes more terrorist violence against us elsewhere. Our standing in the Muslim world improved when Barack Obama took over from George Bush. A poll last month shows that it is plummeting. The terrorism we are in Afghanistan to stop is increasing. The rational approach is an early withdrawal.

John B. Quigley is a professor of international law at Ohio State University. Readers may write to him at The Michael E. Moritz College of Law, Ohio State University, 55 West 12th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43210; e-mail: Quigley.2@osu.edu.

Insisting on our principles

By **TRUDY RUBIN**
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

The debate over the "Ground Zero mosque" has evolved into something much bigger than whether a Muslim center should be built two blocks from hallowed ground.

This debate is really about whether Americans still have the self-confidence to stand up for our Constitution's principles—or whether we've become so fearful that we're eager to junk them.

I say this although I believe the idea of building a mosque in this place at this time is unwise. And I sympathize with the families of 9/11 victims who are uncomfortable with the prospect (although some of the families support it).

But this issue has been so shamefully exploited by political opportunists—and those who believe America is at war with all Muslims—that it's becoming a national scandal. It's time we all took a deep breath and considered what's really at stake.

Contrary to the hysteria in the blogosphere, the site would not be a mega-mosque but a community center-cum-prayer space two blocks from Ground Zero. It would not have a minaret.

The imam spearheading the project, Feisal Abdul Rauf, already leads a mosque 12 blocks away. He frequently engages with Jewish and Christian leaders, and writes widely on the compatibility of Islamic thought with Western democracy. The State Department just sent him to tour the Arab emirates and talk about religious tolerance in the United States. And Rauf is a member of the Sufi Muslim sect, which is despised and attacked by radical Islamists for its willingness to draw from other cultures.

That said, some of his statements blaming U.S. foreign policy for inspiring the 9/11 attack are jarring given his desire to lead a mosque near Ground Zero. The same goes for his advocacy of sharia law for American Muslims in personal matters like inheritance and divorce.

And there are legitimate concerns about where he will raise the \$100 million needed to build his center, and whether it will come from Mideast sources.

However, there is zero evidence of any link between Rauf and Islamist terrorism.

So why has the hysteria over this community center risen to a fever pitch?

The answer lies in the willingness of politicians, mainly Republicans, to hype the mosque controversy before elections. Leading the pack, Newt Gingrich says approving the mosque "would be like putting a Nazi sign next to the Holocaust museum." All Muslims are Nazis—get it?

New York Republican gubernatorial candidate Carl Paladino has called the proposed community center "a monument to those who attacked our country." All Muslims are terrorists—get it?

For Sarah Palin, it's a "knife to the heart" of 9/11 families. Never mind that al-Qaeda wants to broaden America's fight against Islamist terrorist groups into all-out war between the West and Islam. Gingrich and Palin eagerly play into al-Qaeda's hands.

This demagoguery stokes anti-Muslim feelings around the country. Republican pols claim they don't oppose religious freedom. But have any of them stood in solidarity with Muslims in Mufreesboro, Tenn., or Temecula, Calif., or other locales where local Republicans and tea partiers have opposed the building of local mosques? No way. (Democratic Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, pressed by his Republican opponent, also opposed the mosque, but at least he didn't pile on more anti-Muslim slurs.)

Have these politicians totally lost sight of what America stands for? Given Europe's problems integrating large Muslim communities, I'm always grateful our system has enabled so many Arab and South Asian immigrants to become full citizens. That's one reason we haven't had more terror attacks here.

Yes, there have been some imams who preached hate in U.S.

mosques; that's a law enforcement problem. In many more cases, Muslim community leaders help alienated young Muslim immigrants find their way.

Yes, it would have been easier if Rauf had chosen a different locale. He could still defuse fears by being more transparent about funds, more modest in scale, or more willing to consider New York Gov. David Paterson's offer of another site.

But if Rauf chooses to go ahead, he is entitled to do so. As President Obama said last week: "Muslims have the same right to practice their religion as anyone else in this country."

And as Mayor Michael Bloomberg eloquently stated: "We do not honor (the 9/11 dead) by denying the very constitutional rights they died protecting." Have we become so fearful that we can't recognize that?

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at trubin@philly-news.com.

HOPE

From Page 6

sonable world is a difficult proposition. Rhodes speaks to it with great eloquence in his conclusion, which is essentially that of W.H. Auden: "We must love one another or die."






Yes, but would that it were so.

Timothy Rutten is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him e-mail at timothy.rutten@latimes.com.

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The Weather

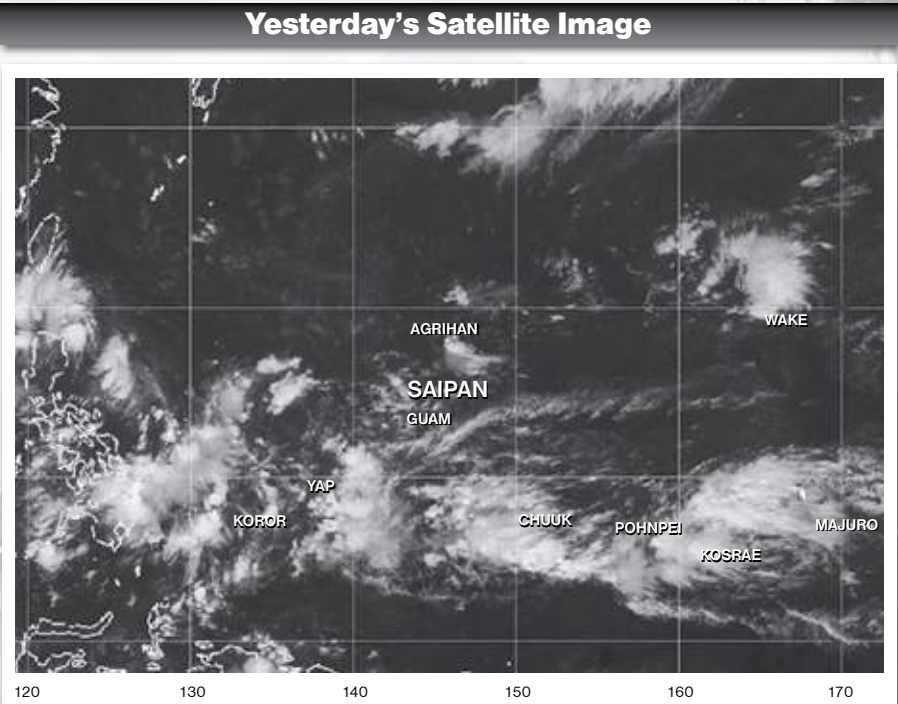
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	 Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 78
Palau	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲ 83 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 74
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 90 ▼ 77
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 78

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲ 58 ▼ 53
Beijing	Showers	▲ 83 ▼ 69
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 89 ▼ 75
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 74
London	Showers	▲ 71 ▼ 65
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 83 ▼ 64
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 61 ▼ 43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 91 ▼ 79
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲ 83 ▼ 69
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 93 ▼ 77
Paris	Sunny	▲ 84 ▼ 63
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Rome	Sunny	▲ 92 ▼ 71
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73 ▼ 52
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 56 ▼ 52
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 75
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 89 ▼ 79
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 91 ▼ 74

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
4:08 AM	Today	High Tide: 1.7 Feet
11:49 AM	Today	Low Tide: 0.1 Feet
7:04 PM	Today	High Tide: 1.7 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level trough extends eastward from an upper-level low centered west of the northern CNMI at 18N132E through another upper low centered west of Pagan at 19N144E to a third upper low centered south of Minami Torishima at 20N155E and finally turns northeastward to beyond 25N at 163E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring along the trough axis from north of Palau northeastward to north of Saipan within 100 miles of a line from 12N131E to 16N134E to 17N146E and also from south of Minami Torishima to north of Wake Island within 155 miles of a line from 18N152E to 22N160E to 23N169E. Trade-wind convergence is generating widely scattered to scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over the entire Micronesia from the Republic of Palau eastward to the Marshall Islands between 3N and 11N from 130E to 177E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:03 AM	6:37 PM	Today	4:11 PM	2:54 AM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:36 PM	Sunday	4:53 PM	3:46 AM
Monday	6:04 AM	6:36 PM	Monday	5:32 PM	4:36 AM
Tuesday	6:04 AM	6:35 PM	Tuesday	6:09 PM	5:24 AM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:35 PM	Wednesday	6:44 PM	6:11 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 16, 2010					
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM			GUAM-ROTA (ROP)		
CO9597	5:00am	5:30am 1, 5	CO9598	6:30pm	7:00pm 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUAM			GUAM-SAIPAN		
CO9317	4:25am	5:15am Daily	CO9316	2:45am	3:35am Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am Daily	CO9596	7:00am	7:50am Daily
CO9601	12:10pm	1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7	CO9600	10:05am	10:55am Daily
CO9603	3:05pm	3:55pm Daily	CO9602	1:40pm	2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7
CO9605	6:35pm	7:25pm Daily	CO9604	5:10pm	6:00pm Daily
CO9599	9:35pm	10:25pm Daily	CO9606	8:10pm	9:00pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN		
DL287	6:00am	8:35am Daily	DL290	9:45am	2:20pm Daily
DL297	3:20pm	5:55pm Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:10pm Daily	DL288	8:40pm	1:10am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA			NAGOYA-SAIPAN		
DL640	7:40am	10:20am Daily	DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN		
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am Daily	OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN		
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am 1, 5	OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN		
OZ604	2:20am	6:00am 1	OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1 Daily via KIX
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am Daily via KIX	OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1 7
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN		
FM844	2:50am	5:40am 2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING			BEIJING-SAIPAN		
CA988	3:15am	6:55am 1, 5	CA987	6:40pm	1:55am +1 4, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN		
OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am 1 via ICN	OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL630/641	6:30am	1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
CO9317/891	4:25am	9:45am 6 via GUM	DL172/288	7:40am	1:10am+1 Daily via NRT
DL287/173	6:00am	10:10pm Daily via NRT	CO890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm 6 via GUM
DL640/629	7:40am	10:35pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO	OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1 7 via ICN
CO9603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm Daily via GUM	OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
CO9603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm 3, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/CO9596	10:00pm	7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
CO9599/PR111	9:35pm	7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	CO892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1 3, 5 via GUM-Palau
			CO934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1 Daily via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG			HONG KONG-SAIPAN		
OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am 1 via ICN	OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1 7 via ICN
CO9603/909	3:05pm	9:30pm 1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
			CO910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)					

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE							
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 200	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Schedule of Religious Services										
CATHOLIC										
Mt. Carmel Cathedral Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm										
Korean Center Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm										
Kristo Rai Parish Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am Monday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm Saturday: 6am and 6pm										
Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish Wednesday Mass: 6pm First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm Saturday Mass: 6pm Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am										
Saint Jude Parish Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm										
San Antonio Parish Sunday: 6am and 8am Tuesday and Friday: 6pm										
San Francisco de Borja-Rota Sunday: 6am and 8am Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6pm										
San Isidro-Rota Sunday: 5am and 10am Monday-Wednesday: 7pm Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm										
San Jose (Oleai) Parish Sunday: 6am and 7:30am Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm										
San Roque Parish Sunday: 9am Wednesday: 6pm Saturday: 10:30am										
San Vicente Parish Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6pm										
Santa Remedios Sunday: 7:30am Tuesday: 6pm Saturday: 10am-Baptism										
Santa Soledad Sunday: 7:30am										
PROTESTANT										
Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm										
Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm										
Chinese Christian Church of Saipan Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm										
Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan Worship/Study Opportunities Adult Sunday School: 9am Youth Sunday School: 9am English Worship Service Sunday: 10am Sunday Service: 5:30pm Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm; Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm Mid-week Service: 7:30pm Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm										
Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau, Call 235-0545 for directions										
Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan Worship Service: 9am GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am Sunday: 7am Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm										
Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan Wednesday: 7:45pm (English) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)										
Immanuel United Methodist Church Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral) Worship Service: 9:00am Children's Sunday School: 9:00am Choir Practice: 8:00am Singspiration: 8:30am Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158										
Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal										
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog) 9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)										
Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan English Service: 9-11am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday										
Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Sunday School: 8:20am Sunday Adult: 10am Sunday Adult: 11:30am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm										
Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)										
Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm										
Missions Connection Ministry Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm										
Northern Marianas Christian Church Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620										
Saipan Bible Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30-10am Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm										
Saipan Christian Church Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)										
Saipan Church of Christ Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 6pm Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm										
Saipan Community Church (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm										
Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm										
First Baptist Church (Formerly Saipan Baptist Church) Afetna St., San Antonio Sunday <table><tr><td>9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td>10am</td><td>Regular worship</td></tr><tr><td>6pm</td><td>worship</td></tr></table> Wednesday <table><tr><td>7pm</td><td>worship</td></tr></table> Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.			9am	Sunday school	10am	Regular worship	6pm	worship	7pm	worship
9am	Sunday school									
10am	Regular worship									
6pm	worship									
7pm	worship									
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism										
Upper Room International Ministries Sunday 5:30am-6:30am Morning prayer <table><tr><td>7am-9am</td><td>English service</td></tr><tr><td>7am-9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td>10am-12noon</td><td>English service,</td></tr></table> Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan			7am-9am	English service	7am-9am	Sunday school	10am-12noon	English service,		
7am-9am	English service									
7am-9am	Sunday school									
10am-12noon	English service,									
Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship:10:30am Sunday PM Worship:7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S										

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 21, 2000

OPM opposes 1 hour breast-feeding leave
Office of Personnel Management Director Mathilda A. Rosario has opposed a proposal that will authorize women government employees who have newly born children one hour of administrative leave for breast-feeding. While she shares the concern of the Legislature on the welfare of newborn children, Ms. Rosario said she is still opposing HB 12-068 because it “would exacerbate an already existing equity problem and could be misconstrued as discriminatory.” HB 12-068, otherwise known as the Breast Feeding Act of 2000, will allow every mother who has a newly born child to be permitted one hour of paid administrative leave each day during working hours to breast-feed her child. The bill, introduced by Rep. Brigida DLG. Ichihara, said such privilege will not exceed more than one year from the date of the child’s birth.

SGMA suspends Eurotex
The Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association’s (SGMA’s) Board of Directors has unanimously voted to suspend Eurotex (Saipan), Inc. from its membership for violations of the SGMA Code of Conduct and for administrative sanction under the organization’s bylaws. On Friday, the board suspended Eurotex under the SGMA Association and Committee Rules based upon its Compliance Committee’s recommendations. They cited non-compliance with the SGMA Code of Conduct, substantial and persuasive evidence of a willful disregard of the code, and prima facie evidence of non-compliance. As a condition of membership, all SGMA member companies have adopted practices to improve and stabilize Saipan’s garment industry, to eradicate unfair trade practices, to work for the fair conditions of labor and employment, and to provide for the common welfare of its membership.

Aug. 21, 2001
Drug tests for elected officials?
Given a choice, Rep. Egredino M. Jones would want all elected officials and legislative staff in the Commonwealth to undergo mandatory drug testing. To this end, Jones said he intends to introduce a bill that would require all elected officials in the CNMI, as well as all employees of the Legislative Bureau and the staff of all legislators, to undergo mandatory drug testing to weed out drug users. The lawmaker sad that the measure he intends to file aims to ensure a drug-free workplace. “Having a mandatory drug test for elected officials and the legislative employees is not only a good policy but it will also demonstrate to the people in the Commonwealth who among us are indeed anti-drug advocates,” he said.

Removal of salary cap on teachers proposed
In a bid to further strengthen the education system in the Commonwealth, Rep. Brigida DLG. Ichihara has filed a bill that would exempt all employees of the Board of Education and the Public School System from the Civil Service System and allow the BOE to establish the salary rate for teachers to encourage the recruitment and retention of qualified personnel. Ichihara, Chair of the House Committee on Education, said that one of the problems that has plagued the public school system is the uncompetitive salary schedule of teachers, which makes it hard to attract and retain qualified instructors. “With this bill, it is hoped that the PSS and the BOE will have more flexibility to establish and adjust the salaries of their employees to remain competitive nationwide by responding to the steadily increasing student enrollment, the expanding demand for qualified professionals and the ever-changing educational needs of Commonwealth students,” she said.

Aug. 21, 2002
MVA mulls background check on staff
The Marianas Visitors Authority is planning to conduct background checks on its employees to verify if any one of them has a “federal criminal record,” following the involvement of one of its employees in the murder of Japanese tour coordinator Chiharu Umeyama. Any MVA employee who has such record faces dismissal from the roster of employees. MVA marketing specialist Alfred Aldan may have this fate, as the MVA also said it is inclined to sack him from the agency. Currently, Aldan is on leave-of-absence, as he remains in jail after the court denied his bid to post bail. Managing Director Jonas Ogren, however, is still looking at the legal aspect of terminating Aldan, even if the criminal case against the latter is still pending before the CNMI Superior Court.

Business

BoG still No. 1 in small biz loans in Marianas

H A G A T N A , Guam—The Bank of Guam continues its No. 1 ranking of Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands banks making loans to small businesses, as reported in a United States Small Business Administration letter to participating banks for the first 10 months of fiscal year 2010. Bank of Guam registered 22 loans made to small businesses in Guam and the CNMI, besting other participating financial institutions.

Lou A. Leon Guerrero, Bank of Guam president, chief executive, and board chair stated, “Our small business loan group continues to be effective and responsive to the needs of businesses in Guam and the CNMI. We are also very proud



Leon Guerrero

that our Kosrae branch, which just opened in September, produced the very first U.S. Small Business Administration Community Express Loan in the Federated States of Micronesia. Our loan teams of Reanna Cruz and Esther Reyes in Guam and Mary Simmering in Kosrae are a formidable group of small business loan experts and we congratulate them on their success.”

She went on to say, “The Bank of Guam brings a level of local decision-making and banking expertise unmatched in our region. More than others, we are keenly sensitive to

the needs of growing businesses, having been a startup ourselves nearly 40 years ago. It is this understanding that makes the Bank of Guam the ideal partner in our markets.” For more information, please contact Jackie Marati at 472-5258. **(BoG)**

Illnesses linked to eggs will likely grow

WASHINGTON (AP)—A salmonella outbreak that sickened hundreds and led to the recall of hundreds of millions of eggs from one Iowa firm will likely grow, federal health officials said Thursday. That’s because illnesses occurring after mid-July may not be reported yet, said Dr. Christopher Braden, an epidemiologist with the federal Centers for Disease Control. Almost 2,000 illnesses from the strain of salmonella linked to the eggs were reported between May and July, about 1,300 more than usual, he said.

No deaths have been reported. The CDC is continuing to receive information from state health departments as people report their illnesses. “I would anticipate that we will be seeing more illnesses reported likely as a result of this outbreak,” said Braden. The recall of 380 million eggs from Iowa’s Wright County Egg is one of the largest shell egg recalls in recent history. The outbreak could have been prevented if new rules to ensure egg safety had been in place a few months earlier, an FDA spokeswoman said.

Fidelity: 401(k) hardship withdrawals, loans up

By DAVID PITT
AP PERSONAL FINANCE WRITER

In the wake of news about a spike in new applications for unemployment benefits comes another potentially troubling sign: A record number of workers made hardship withdrawals from their retirement accounts in the second quarter. What’s more, the number of workers borrowing from their accounts reached a 10-year high, according to a report issued Friday by Fidelity Investments. The trends reflect the financial stress many workers find themselves in as the economy struggles to find sure footing,

said Beth McHugh, Fidelity’s vice president of marketing insight. High unemployment and companies cutting back on overtime or overall hours have reduced the take-home pay of many workers. “People tend to be taking home less,” she said. “As a result the percentage of individuals initiating hardship distributions is one of the things we’re concerned about.” Fidelity administers 17,000 plans, which represents 11 million participants. In the second quarter, some 62,000 workers initiated a hardship withdrawal. That’s compared with 45,000 in the same period a year ago.

Nation

Obama a Muslim? Rumors gain steam, defying facts

NEW YORK (AP)—"President Obama is a Muslim." "He's not an American citizen." "He wasn't even born here."

None of this is true. But to surprising levels, it is believed.

Blame it on the media, or on human nature. All presidents deal with image problems—that they're too weak or too belligerent, too far left or far right. But Obama also faces questions over documented facts, in part because some people identify more with the rumor-mongers than the debunkers.

"Trust and distrust—that explains almost all of it," says Nicholas DiFonzo, professor of psychology at the Rochester Institute of Technology and an expert on rumor and gossip research. "We are in such a highly polarized political environment. Our country is sorting itself into more closely knit, opposing factions each year"—factions, DiFonzo suggests, that in turn become "echo chambers" for factoids that aren't fact at all.

Nearly one in five people, or 18 percent, said they think Obama is Muslim, up from the 11 percent who said so in March 2009, according to a poll released Thursday. The proportion who correctly say he is a Christian is just 34 percent, down from 48 percent in March of last year.

The White House even felt com-

pelled to respond with a terse knock-down from spokesman Bill Burton: "The president is obviously a Christian. He prays every day."

Obama is the Christian son of a Kenyan Muslim father and a Kansas mother. Born in Hawaii, he lived from ages 6 to 10 in predominantly Muslim Indonesia with his mother and Indonesian stepfather. His full name, Barack Hussein Obama, sounds Muslim to many.

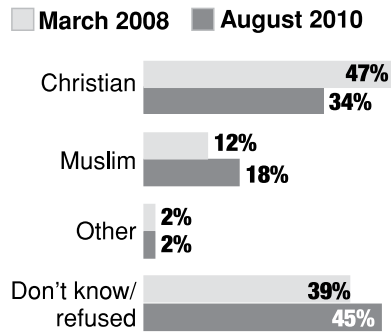
Confusion about Obama's religion was common, and sometimes encouraged, during the 2008 campaign. An Associated Press photograph that circulated on the Internet, and was posted on The Drudge Report, showed Obama dressed in traditional local garments—a white turban and a wraparound white robe—during a visit to Kenya in 2006. Democratic rival Hillary Rodham Clinton may have contributed through her response to a question, during a "60 Minutes" interview, about whether he was a Muslim. "There's nothing to base that on," she said. "As far as I know."

Others have helped keep rumors about Obama's religion and birth alive. Conservative commentators including radio talk show host Michael Savage have repeated debunked claims that Obama attended a radical Muslim madrasa in Indonesia. Rush Limbaugh has facetiously referred to "Imam Obama" in recent days, and last

Mistaken beliefs

A growing number of Americans say that President Barack Obama is a Muslim, despite the fact that he is a Christian.

More say Obama is Muslim ...

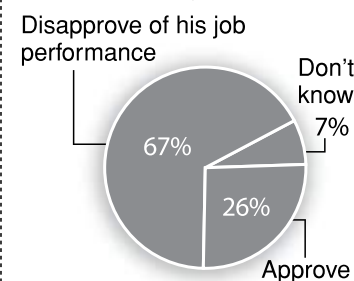


© 2010 MCT

Source: Pew Research Center survey of 3,003 U.S. adults, July 21-Aug. 5, 2010; margin of error: +/-2.5 percentage points
Graphic: Pat Carr

... and the misperception is linked to job approval ...

Of those who say Obama is Muslim



year praised a woman who at a Delaware town hall meeting questioned Obama's citizenship. Lou Dobbs gave significant air time to such "birther" claims on CNN—despite his own insistence that he believed Obama was born in the U.S.

The new survey, conducted by the nonpartisan Pew Research Center and its affiliated Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, is based on interviews conducted before the controversy over whether Muslims should be permitted

to construct a mosque near the World Trade Center site. Obama has said he believes Muslims have the right to build an Islamic center there, though he's also said he won't take a position on whether they should actually build it.

We have never been without misperceptions, but they are speeded and multiplied in the Internet age. Last month, right-wing bloggers—citing unnamed sources within the Laredo Police Department in Texas—reported that the Mexican drug cartel Zetas had captured

two Laredo ranches. The story was picked up by author-pundit Michelle Malkin and other conservatives.

Inquiries from local media and the liberal Web site Talking Points Memo turned up different news: The raids never happened.

"The Internet has made it worse," says Lori Robertson, managing editor of the website FactCheck.org, a non-partisan project run under the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania. "Any of these rumors are more rampant, and there's more stuff about them—blogs writing about conspiracy theories. People are exposed to it more."

Robertson says her organization has been asked hundreds of times about Obama's religion, even after FactCheck published an explanatory article in early 2008 called "Sliming Obama." It focused on the chain e-mail that many believe helped spread the lie.

Despite what the e-mail claimed, FactCheck.org has noted that Obama was sworn into office as a U.S. senator using the Bible instead of the Quran; a photograph was posted to prove it. FactCheck also posted videos of Obama reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in the Senate, in an attempt to counter claims that he refused.

Still, the questions about Obama's faith didn't stop.

Jetliner grounded in San Francisco after threat

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A hijack threat halted an American Airlines flight just before takeoff Thursday, leaving the New York-bound jet sitting on the tarmac for several hours while it was searched and passengers were removed for extra scrutiny.

The FBI later determined that the telephoned threat wasn't credible, but in the wake of the 9/11 attacks and a series of airline scares in the past year, the incident still rattled nerves as it played out live on national TV.

Police were investigating who called in the hijacking threat and what their motivation might have been.

Although passengers described the scene aboard the Boeing 767 headed to John F. Kennedy International Airport as calm, witnesses said a man and a woman sitting in the back row were taken off in handcuffs. But they were quickly released

and allowed to rebook their flights.

The couple confirmed to an Associated Press reporter that they were the ones who had been removed from the plane but declined to identify themselves. They said authorities explained they were picked at random for questioning.

But a fellow passenger suggested the couple may have been targeted because of their appearance. Michael Anderson, 20, saw the couple at the American Airlines ticket counter after all the passengers were let off the detained plane and observed them carrying passports from Pakistan.

"It definitely seems like it was racial profiling, based on what they look like physically and the fact they are Pakistani. It seems like this was a false accusation," said Anderson, a Yale University sophomore who was heading back to school.

American Airlines Flight 24, with

163 passengers and a crew of 11, was already running 2 1/2 hours late when it pulled away from the gate at 10 a.m. Minutes later, it was being dispatched to a remote stretch of tarmac at San Francisco International Airport where it sat for two hours.

"There was no fear in the cabin at all," passenger Michael Kidd told the AP. "It was pretty calm. Even with the frustration of having to sit there, there were no raised voices."

Passengers with Internet access searched the Web for details about the incident. Passengers were allowed to go to the bathroom one at a time, Kidd said, with flight attendants admonishing anyone who tried to get to their overhead luggage.

Police eventually entered through the back door and escorted the two passengers into a police car.

privately operated state prison in Kingman, allegedly with the help of Welch, McCluskey's cousin and fiancée. The other two inmates were recaptured in Colorado and Wyoming.

Arizona Corrections Department officials have said that Welch helped McCluskey and inmates Tracy Province and Daniel Renwick escape July 30 from a private prison facility near Kingman by cutting through a security fence, setting off a massive multistate search.

Renwick was recaptured in Rifle, Colo., on Aug. 1, and Province was found in Meeteetse, Wyo., on Aug. 9. The last confirmed sighting of McCluskey and Welch—two of the most wanted fugitives in America—was on Aug. 6 in Billings, Mont.

Authorities: Ariz. escapee caught at campground

PHOENIX (AP)—An escaped state prison inmate and his fiancée, who have been on the run for weeks amid a nationwide manhunt, were captured Thursday in northeastern Arizona after being spotted at a campground by Forest Service workers, officials told The Associated Press.

Details were sketchy and Arizona authorities scheduled a news briefing late Thursday night to discuss the capture of John McCluskey and Casslyn Welch, who also is the inmate's cousin.

Sgt. Richard Guinn of the Apache County Sheriff's Office told the AP that a team of officers arrested McCluskey and Welch on Thursday evening after

Forest Service employees spotted the pair and reported them to authorities. Guinn said McCluskey turned when confronted by officers but was immediately put on the ground. He and Welch are now held at the county jail in St. Johns.

"They have been positively identified," Guinn said.

The team included county, state and federal law enforcement officers, who recovered two handguns from the couple's campsite

at an Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest campground, Guinn said.

McCluskey was among three prisoners who escaped July 30 from a



McCluskey

ACROSS THE NATION

Mud delays efforts to extract WWII plane from lake

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Divers worked through the day Thursday to extract a rare World War II dive bomber from the bottom of a reservoir but were unable to finish removing thick silt and mud from the plane to enable it to be lifted out of the water. Former Army ranger Tara Lysenko, who is assisting in the salvage operation, said divers would resume efforts on Friday to lift the SB2C Helldiver, one of only a handful still in existence. Relatives of the two-man crew had been waiting at the reservoir's edge to see the plane that crashed there in 1945 after the engine failed during a training exercise. Bob Metz, 84, who watched the painstaking work, said he recalls his oldest brother, Sgt. Joseph Metz, telling about how he and the pilot—who have both since died—managed to swim ashore to safety, then hitchhiked back to the nearby military base. "I remember when he got a jeep and brought me up here and told me, 'You want to see where we ditched the plane?'" said Metz of Montebello, Calif.

Tenn. dries out after deluge washes through state

MT. JULIET, Tenn. (AP)—Tennessee started drying out Thursday after days of drenching rain caused flooding, stranded homeowners and drivers, washed out roads and forced a freight train off its tracks. No deaths had been reported, but forecasters warned the inundation may not be over. More rain was expected to fall across the Southeast during the weekend from the same storm sys-

tem, which also was prompting flood watches and pouring rain onto parts of Kentucky, North Carolina and Virginia. Most flood watches and warnings in Tennessee had expired by Thursday afternoon, including one for Nashville, while remaining in effect for some areas to the northeast. Even with possible flooding in the Cumberland River and other creeks in the state, it likely will not cause the same devastation wrought by heavy rains in early May. Still, officials were making plans for possible evacuations and preparing sandbags for downtown Nashville and other riverfront areas that previously flooded.

Dallas police chase ends alongside airport runway

DALLAS (AP)—A suspected car-jacker led police on an hour-long chase Thursday before crashing through a locked chain-link fence and driving across runways at Dallas Love Field, temporarily halting flights, authorities said. The afternoon chase ended when police surrounded and rammed a pickup truck alongside a busy runway, pulled the shirtless driver from the cab and placed him in handcuffs. Operations on both major runways were stopped from about 3:20 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., said Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Kathleen Bergen. One arriving flight had to make a second approach, and all departures were held on the ground until the chase was over. The chase began when an undercover police officer spotted a truck that had been reported stolen a day earlier in Fort Worth, Deputy Chief Jesse Reyes said.

Asia

UN seen meeting aid goal for flood-hit Pakistan

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The United Nations appeared to have met its target of \$460 million in immediate aid for flood-stricken Pakistan on Thursday after the U.S. and other nations significantly upped their pledges.

The rush of promised help came after U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, addressing a hastily called meeting of the General Assembly, urged governments and people to be even more generous than they were in the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and this year's Haiti earthquake, because the floods

were a bigger "global disaster" with the Pakistan government now saying more than 20 million people need shelter, food and clean water.

"This disaster is like few the world has ever seen," Ban told the meeting. "It requires a response to match. Pakistan needs a flood of support."

Before the meeting, he said, donors had given half the sum the U.N. appealed for to provide food, shelter and clean water to up to 8 million flood victims over the next three months. But Ban insisted all the money was needed now—and much more

will be needed later.

After listening to speeches by high-level representatives of some 20 countries, Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said he was assured that the \$460 million goal "is going to be easily met," including "\$100 million plus" from Saudi Arabia.

Aid groups and U.N. officials had worried about a slow response to the flooding, theorizing that donors who have spent heavily on a string of huge disasters in recent years are reluctant to open their wallets yet again.

Scores still missing in western China mudslides

BEIJING (AP)—Rescue crews searched Friday for scores of people left missing and feared dead in southwestern China after torrential rains triggered massive mudslides during a summer plagued by deadly rains and flooding.

Rainfall hampered efforts to find 88 people in Puladi township, a remote mountain community in Yunnan province. Hillsides thundered down on the riverside township before dawn Wednesday, covering all but the tallest buildings with a

layer of mud and rock several feet (meters) thick.

It was just the latest landslide to strike China. The worst carnage came Aug. 8 in the town of Zhouqu in the province of Gansu, where 1,364 people were listed as dead and 401 are still missing.

A disaster was averted in Sichuan province Thursday when authorities managed to evacuate all passengers from two train cars that dangled for several minutes over a muddy, rushing river before the cars

riaged fell into the water.

The train was traveling in Guanghan city when it began shaking and then stopped moving, according to dining car supervisor Wang Baoning. Floodwaters had loosened piers on the Shitingjiang bridge, Xinhua said.

The two cars were hanging over the water in a "V" shape, but were still connected to the adjacent carriages, Wang told state broadcaster CCTV. It took more than 10 minutes to evacuate the cars, he said.

Australian PM faces voter backlash at election

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Julia Gillard became Australia's first female prime minister by seizing control of her party from her former boss less than two months ago and called elections weeks later—hoping to save the left-leaning government from rising voter grumbling with fresh, straight-talking leadership. It hasn't quite worked out that way.

Instead, conservative opposition leader Tony Abbott—once considered by colleagues to be too much of a loose cannon to lead—has made Saturday's

contest one of the closest in decades, offering Australians a stark choice in leaders.

Gillard could face a voter backlash over her unprecedented party power grab and her policy direction on climate change. But most analysts expect her center-left Labor Party will retain a slim majority for a second three-year term.

Gillard stunned Australians when she launched a sudden challenge to Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's leadership on June 24. She had been his deputy. He surrendered without a

fight after seeing that his support among government colleagues had collapsed along with the party's popularity in opinion polls.

Gillard sought to seal her mandate by calling an election. But her party has had difficulty moving forward from the leadership coup.

Gillard's five-week campaign has been repeatedly distracted by damaging media leaks, apparently from well-placed anonymous government sources, which have been blamed on Rudd or Rudd loyalists.

fueled civil wars in South America, the Middle East and Africa, with clients including Liberia's Charles Taylor and Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi and both sides of the civil war in Angola. Bout says he is the victim of an American "frame-up." Ahead of the ruling, Bout's lawyer described him as "very optimistic" and eager to get out of prison. He reiterated Bout's repeated denial of the accusations against him. During testimony, Bout claimed he ran a legitimate air cargo business and was in Bangkok to discuss selling airplanes to Thai businessmen.

58 pilot whales die in New Zealand beach stranding

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand whale rescue volunteers were racing against time Friday to save 15 pilot whales stranded on an isolated northern beach—after rescuers reported 58 of the pod had already died. Kimberly Muncaster, chief executive of the Project Jonah whale aid group, said the 15 surviving whales were in "fairly poor condition." The whales probably stranded during the night, which is why so many died before they were discovered, said Carolyn Smith, the community relations program manager for the Department of Conservation.

World

Radioactive boars on the rise in Germany



Forester Andreas Thiermeyer takes a piece of wild boar meat in Eglharting near Munich, southern Germany, on Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2010.

BERLIN (AP)—It was a big shot. A big hog. And a big disappointment.

When Georg van Bebber hauled back his wild boar from

Ebersberg forest near Munich after a day of hunting, he was exhilarated about his impressive prey.

But before he could take it

Calderon: Mexico should consider anonymous judges

MEXICO CITY (AP)—President Felipe Calderon said Mexico should consider appointing anonymous judges for drug trafficking trials, an unexpected proposal that he acknowledged contradicts the country's efforts to build a more open judicial system.

Calderon, who raised the

idea Thursday during meeting with senators on national security, said Mexico should at least consider the idea as drug cartels stage increasingly bold attacks on public official at all levels.

"I recognize that this goes against ... our legal tradition," Calderon said. "But in

home, a Geiger counter showed a problem: The boar's meat was radioactive to an extent considered potentially dangerous for consumption. It needed to be thrown out and burnt.

"I really would have liked to have this boar," van Bebber said when he recounted the incident in a telephone interview from Bavaria.

Almost a quarter century after the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear meltdown in Ukraine, its fallout is still a hot topic in some German regions, where thousands of boars shot by hunters still turn up with excessive levels of radioactivity. In fact, the numbers are higher than ever before.

The total compensation the German government paid last year for the discarded contaminated meat shot up to a record sum of euro425,000 (about \$558,000), from only about euro25,000 ten years ago, according to the Federal Environment Ministry in Berlin.

"The reason is that there are more and more boars in Germany, and more are being shot and hunted, that is why more contaminated meat turns up," spokesman Thomas Hagbeck told The Associated Press.

all honesty, gentlemen, I have found that citizens, police, judges, prosecutors are at risk, in the sense that they are completely exposed to criminal vengeance."

"We should consider whether this is valid or not, whether anonymous judges would work or not," Calderon said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Report: Iran needs year to develop nuclear weapon

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. officials have convinced Israel that Iran needs at least a year to develop a nuclear weapon, dimming prospects of an Israeli strike on Iran's nuclear facilities, The New York Times reports. Israeli officials thought Iran could develop nuclear weapons within months. But Gary Samore, President Barack Obama's top adviser on nuclear issues, told the Times he thinks it would take Tehran "roughly a year" to turn low-enriched uranium into weapons-grade material. "A year is a very long period of time," Samore was quoted by the newspaper in a report posted on its website late Thursday. The assessment is based on U.S. intelligence and international inspectors' reports. Israeli officials have indicated that if they thought Iran was developing a nuclear weapon, they would probably take military action. Iran says it is enriching uranium only for peaceful purposes.

Saudi judge considers paralysis punishment

CAIRO (AP)—A Saudi judge has asked several hospitals in the country whether they could damage a man's spinal cord as punishment after he was convicted of attacking another man with a cleaver and paralyzing him, the brother of the victim said Thursday. Abdul-Aziz al-Mutairi, 22, was left paralyzed and subsequently lost a foot after a

fight more than two years ago. He asked a judge in northwestern Tabuk province to impose an equivalent punishment on his attacker under Islamic law, his brother Khaled al-Mutairi told The Associated Press by telephone from there. He said one of the hospitals, located in Tabuk, responded that it is possible to damage the spinal cord, but it added that the operation would have to be done at another more specialized facility. Saudi newspapers reported that a second hospital in the capital Riyadh declined, saying it could not inflict such harm.

Singer Wyclef Jean meets with Haiti's president

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Haitian President Rene Preval met with presidential hopeful Wyclef Jean for more than two hours on Thursday, touching off a new round of speculation as to whether the singer will be allowed to run in Nov. 28 elections. Jean told The Associated Press that he felt the exchange with Preval was positive. "I feel good," the hip hop artist and former Fugees frontman said. "I feel that the president that I voted for five years ago is the same person that was sitting in front of me today." He said he was hopeful that an electoral council weighing his candidacy will rule that he can run. "It looks like it's leaning that way," he said. Several hours after the meeting, Jean posted a photo on his Twitter account of him shaking hands with Preval, who is not allowed to run for re-election.

ASIAN BRIEFS

NKorea calls for Japanese apology and reparation

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea pressed Japan on Friday to apologize for its colonial rule, faulting Tokyo for offering a recent apology only to South Korea for its annexation of the Korean peninsula a century ago. North Koreans harbor deep resentment of Japan for using Koreans for forced labor and sex slaves during its 1910-45 occupation of the peninsula. Japan "should make immediate apology and reparation for the hideous crimes committed against the Korean people," the North's Foreign Ministry said in a statement carried by the country's official Korean Central News Agency. It also urged Japan to "immediately roll back its hostile policy toward" North Korea.

Thais to rule on US bid to extradite arms dealer

BANGKOK (AP)—An appeals court in Thailand began delivering a final verdict Friday on a U.S. request to extradite suspected arms smuggler Viktor Bout, the elusive Russian businessman dubbed "The Merchant of Death." Bout, a 43-year-old former Soviet air force officer, is reputed to be one of the world's most prolific arms dealers. He has allegedly supplied weapons that

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, August 21, 2010

Saipan hosts 'Ang Dating Daan' at the World Resort



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

For the first time, the Saipan chapter of the Members of the Church of God International participated live in the Worldwide Bible Exposition last Tuesday at the Royal Taga Hall of World Resort.

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the first time, the Saipan chapter of the Members of the Church of God International participated live in the Worldwide Bible Exposition last Tuesday at the Royal Taga Hall of World Resort.

The Members of the Church of God International is a Philippine-based Christian denomination that is widely known for its multimedia program, *Ang Dating Daan* or *The Old Path*.

The Worldwide Bible Exposition was hosted by presiding minister Eliseo Soriano, famously known as Bro. Eli, and vice presiding minister Daniel Razon.

Church worker Leonard Legaspi told *Saipan Tribune* that the Worldwide Bible Exposition involved all six chapters of the Members of the Church of God

International in the Philippines through videoconferencing.

Through the videoconference, Soriano and Razon answered questions about faith and religion posed by the participants. All their answers were derived from the Bible, said Legaspi.

Legaspi said the Worldwide Bible Exposition is held every Tuesday and engages the involvement of their international chapters, which take turn participating in the conference.

According to Legaspi, *The Old Path* aims "to propagate the Word of God, *walang kulang at walang labis na Salita ng Diyos*."

Legaspi said the event was "very successful" since it drew the participation of both members and non-members alike.

He said they advertised the event through radio, television, and print ads,

including motorcades, to encourage more people to hear and learn the Word of God through the exposition.

About 120 non-members and 27 members attended the exposition, which lasted until 1am (11pm Manila time), said Legaspi.

He said most of the non-member visitors are already listeners or viewers of *The Old Path*, which airs from 8:30pm to 9:30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday and 9pm to 10pm on Wednesday.

Among the non-member attendees, seven attended the mass indoctrination held Thursday, he said.

A free health screening, in collaboration with the Wise Women Village Project of the Department of Health, was also conducted at the venue before the start of the Bible exposition.

Dr. Gary Ramsey, medical director

of the Wise Women Village Project, administered the free screening of blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol, along with two nurses who are members of the church.

Legaspi said those who turned out to have high blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar levels were referred to Pacific Medical Center for free until Aug. 31.

Those who availed of the health screening were given free shirts, while participants of the Worldwide Bible exposition who stayed until the end were each given a free Bible.

Legaspi encourages everyone on Saipan to watch *The Old Path* or watch their streaming videos.

"Most of us are busy with work but we must remember that, as said in the Bible, man does not live on bread alone. We also need spiritual guidance.

It's time that we set aside a moment to read the Bible and learn about what it can teach us," he said.

Legaspi said everyone is welcome to join them in their Bible study in Unit #2 Saipan Plaza Building, next to Health Line on Middle Road.

You can also visit www.livestream.com/elisoriano every Thursday, www.esoriano.wordpress.com, www.untvweb.com, www.justin.tv/elisoriano.com, www.truthcaster.tv, or www.theoldpath.com.

For more information, call 233-0464, text 789-3320, or email top2010_saipan@yahoo.com.

Spelling whiz lauded for leadership qualities

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Spelling whiz Mikhail T. Alcantara was among the youth leaders recognized by the Division of Youth Services in a ceremony yesterday at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe.

DYS acknowledged 16 young members of the community and a youth organization for exemplifying commendable leadership qualities in celebration of Youth Leadership Months from June to August.

These youth leaders—nominated by various schools and youth organizations—received certificates of commendation from Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

William S. Reyes Elementary School nominated Alcantara for having served as a role model for the school.

Twelve-year old Alcantara was the president of the student council and an officer of the National Junior Honor Society.

Alcantara "has inspired a lot of



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Twelve-year old Mikhail T. Alcantara holds the certificate of recognition awarded by the Division of Youth Services and handed out by Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos. Joining Alcantara are his parents Jerry and Ligaya Alcantara and DYS Director Debra Inos.

students through his good behavior, academic achievements" and his willingness to represent his school during competitions.

The incoming seventh grader at

Hopwood Junior High School represented the Pacific region in the National Scripps Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. last June.

Aside from performing well in his ac-

ademics, Alcantara actively participates in community service by joining walkathons and other fundraising drives.

Alcantara said he feels good about the unexpected nomination from his school. "I feel so happy that they said all those comments about how I was helpful with the children. I feel so happy that they saw that," he said.

Jerry Alcantara told *Saipan Tribune* that he and his wife Lydia are filled with pride for their youngest son's achievements.

"Every parent would want their kid to do well and be the best that they could be. We are so proud of him. We wish him all the best. We will support him to the best of our ability," said the older Alcantara.

The younger Alcantara hopes that with the recognition, he will be able to inspire more kids to aim high and work harder.

"Hopefully, I'll do something to help the community and make it easier for people to live," he added.

Tinian resident passes NCLEX

Tinian-based Mesivski B. Mahilum, a registered nurse by profession in the Philippines, now joins the ranks of successful passers of the National Council of State Board of Nursing NCLEX on Saipan.

Mahilum took the exam on Aug. 10, 2010, for licensure in the State of California-RN, and learned that he passed the exam last Tuesday midnight, Aug. 17, 2010, through the Pearson Vue website.

He said he answered about 75 questions during the exam.

As a holder of a California-RN license, Mahilum is now at liberty to apply for work as a registered nurse in the CNMI and in any part of the United States but he said his top-most priority right now is to serve the people of the CNMI. (PR)



Mahilum

Philippine police to charge driver in deadly crash

By **OLIVER TEVES**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Criminal negligence charges will be filed against the driver and conductor of a bus that plunged into a ravine killing 41 people in the northern Philippines, police said Thursday.

The packed bus was negotiating a downhill curve Wednesday when the driver, who is in an intensive care unit, failed to shift gears, sending the vehicle over a road barrier into a 100-foot (30-meter) ravine, police said.

The driver, Romeo Subang Jr., was familiar with the road "so he really committed an error," said Senior Superintendent Vladimir Kahulugan.

Subang and conductor John

Patrick Flores, who suffered minor injuries, face charges of reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and physical injuries, said police chief Milben Mayor of Benguet province north of Manila. The charges carry a maximum penalty of six to 12 years in prison.

Subang was in serious condition with multiple rib fractures and a broken leg, while Flores was in police custody and could not be reached for comment.

Flores told The Associated Press shortly after the crash he was able to jump out of the bus moments before it plunged into the ravine. He said the brakes failed and the driver attempted to hit a lamppost to stop the bus but missed.

A 10-year-old boy was among

nine survivors, eight of whom were hospitalized.

It was one of the country's worst recent accidents. The bus was traveling down the highway that zigzags from the mountain city of Baguio heading to La Union province when it crashed in Benguet's Sablan township.

Rescuers and paramedics pull out passenger victims from the wreckage after a passenger bus negotiating a downhill curve on Wednesday Aug. 18, 2010 plunged off a Philippine mountain highway into a 100-foot (30-meter) ravine in Tuba township, Benguet province in northern Philippines killing 40 people in one of the country's worst recent accidents, police said.

AP



Internet-savvy Aquino goes online to fight corruption

By **NORMAN BORDADORA**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—If you want President Benigno Aquino III to see your Facebook message or your tweet, make sure it has more relevance than just a request for you to be added as his friend, or as a critic of his receding hairline.

The Internet-savvy President is opening the doors of government through cyberspace, promising unprecedented public access to help him fight entrenched corruption.

Filipinos are among the world's most enthusiastic users of social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter, and Aquino says he wants this huge online community to become a new force in stamping out graft.

But Aquino has also made it clear that his busy schedule is keeping him from going through the swarms of messages he receives every day through social networking sites.

"We're rather busy. As a general rule, my staff brings to my attention the messages that have relevance," Aquino told reporters on Wednesday.

"For instance, messages that ask that I add the sender as a friend are no longer brought to my attention," he added.

Insoluble problem

Asked if he would engage crit-



AP

Philippine President Benigno Aquino III gestures during a press conference Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2010 at the Malacanang Palace in Manila, Philippines.

ics through Facebook, Twitter or other means of feedback, Aquino said: "It depends. For instance, if they would tell me that I have thin hair, what can we do with that problem?"

"There are people who will always look at you (in) the worst way, who will just endeavor to tie your schedule up. So, I think we will have to utilize our judgment on who we can engage, who we cannot engage," he added.

Aquino indicated that while he welcomed criticism and

while dialogue in a democracy should be encouraged, there was a limit to what he could do.

"We will be the first to say we are not Superman, we are not God."

16M Facebook users

Nick Gonzalez, a Web analyst who operates CheckFacebook.com, ranks the Philippines as the seventh-biggest market in the world for the social networking site with nearly 16 million users.

That means nearly a fifth of the population use Facebook.

Aquino's campaign has made a promising start—over 16,000 hits in the first two hours of his website's launch on Monday alone.

"We cannot underestimate the potency or the power of digital media," said Malacañang's Communications Secretary Herminio Coloma.

"It is a very viral, contagious and infectious process that really creates and multiplies awareness all throughout," Coloma said.

Days of the telegram

Coloma called on Filipino netizens to go to Aquino's various Web pages and report anyone involved in corruption.

They can also give general comments about how to improve government operations as part of Aquino's broader pledge to ensure his administration is more transparent than his graft-tainted predecessors.

Aquino looked back to those days when the quickest way the President got messages from the public was through the telegram.

"During the time of President Magsaysay, the telegram was the trend. You were given adequate time to respond," he said.

Plea for understanding

Such is not the case now with those who know his cell phone number and send him messages to get his attention on certain issues.

"With text, you can easily press the button but we cannot answer within five minutes," Aquino said. "The request for investigation of a substandard road somewhere needs an investigator that we still have to send."

"So we ask for understanding... that not everything can be answered within minutes."

Those presenting legitimate issues are answered using "a template for each particular concern," he said. "At the same time, when I do find time, I try to answer personally."

Messages at bedtime

Aquino said it was difficult to answer all text messages on his cellular phone because of the sheer number of text messages sent to him every day.

"I think at any given time, when I open my cell phone in the morning there are 30. In the course of the day, every time I

get hold of the phone, two to three times, four times a day, there are 15," he said.

"Then before I sleep, there are another 28 or so messages. There are days that it seems too tiring to reply but I do my best to answer."

Aquino said his communications group helped him tackle the issues brought to his attention through the social networking sites and through his cell phone.

Stake in government

The finance department is running a parallel website (www.perangbayan.com) where anyone can anonymously complain about corrupt government officials or provide details about

tax cheats and smugglers.

It is also linked to Facebook and has already received 800 reports in recent weeks, some of which have become the basis for investigations, the government said.

Internal Revenue Commissioner Kim Henares told Agence France-Presse her office received up to 20 tips a day against tax evaders through her Facebook page as well as through dedicated telephone hotlines she set up.

"You can see a lot of people coming out. In Facebook, people added me up as a friend and posted their complaints," she said. "People feel they have a stake in this government." *With report from AFP*

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PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Kidnappers release businessman in Philippines

COTABATO, Philippines (AP)—Police say kidnappers in the southern Philippines have released a businessman after his family paid a ransom. Chief Superintendent Felicisimo Khu says the abductors abandoned hardware store owner Nelson Tay east of Cotabato city on Thursday, three days after six men armed with assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades barged into his store and dragged him

to a waiting van. Kidnappings for ransom are common in the lawless region, where criminal gangs and Muslim rebels operate. The main Muslim rebel group in the area is negotiating peace with the government and had earlier offered to help secure Tay's freedom.

US-Philippines project to combat human trafficking

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines and the United States have signed

an agreement on a three-year joint effort to combat human trafficking. The U.S. will provide \$500,000 and an American legal adviser will work with the Philippine Justice Department to improve the investigation, prosecution and conviction of human traffickers. U.S. Ambassador Harry Thomas signed the agreement Thursday with Justice Secretary Leila de Lima. He said the accord would help "end the scourge of human trafficking, a modern-day form of slavery."

Philippine legislator given bail on HK drug charge

HONG KONG (AP)—A Hong Kong court Thursday granted bail to a Philippine legislator and son of a prominent politician after he spent more than a month in police custody on drug charges.

Hong Kong airport authorities arrested Philippine Rep. Ronald Singson, 41, on July 11 on suspicion of trafficking in cocaine after a flight from Manila.

Singson is the son of Luis “Chavit” Singson, a provincial governor whose testimony in the corruption trial of his former friend, ex-President Joseph Estrada, helped convict the ousted leader in 2007 and send him to life in prison. Estrada was later pardoned.

The drug case has generated publicity in the Philippines where powerful lawmakers sometimes run afoul of the law. One legislator has been convicted of raping a minor and another is facing charges of killing his wife.

Singson’s father, who attended Thursday’s hearing, told ABS-CBN television in Manila that he suspected his son was set up because of “politics and business.” He did not elaborate and said the bail will be split by two Hong Kong “business friends” he did not identify.

Bail was set at 1 million Hong Kong dollars (\$130,000) in cash, on condition that Singson report daily to a police



station. His passports and other travel documents were to be surrendered.

The next hearing was set for Sept. 7 at a district court.

Singson’s father claimed his son was traveling with two companions who also were found carrying the drugs but were supposedly immediately released.

Singson was initially charged with trafficking 0.92 ounces (26.1 grams) of cocaine but the amount was reduced to 0.24 ounces (6.67 grams) after a routine analysis by government chemists, the Tseun Wan Magistrate Court No. 1 heard. Two tablets of diazepam, the generic form of Valium, were also allegedly found on him.

In Hong Kong, trafficking in a dangerous drug carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and a fine of 5 million Hong Kong dollars (\$640,000). It was unclear if the reduced amount of cocaine would result in a less severe charge. Singson’s lawyer, John Reading, declined to comment at the court house.

Ronald Singson’s father, Governor of Ilocos Sur Luis “Chavit” Singson, right, and his son’s girl friend, Philippine actress-singer Lovi Poe leave a court in Hong Kong Thursday, Aug. 19, 2010.

Board exam topnotcher didn’t think she passed

By JEANNETTE ANDRADE
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Chitra Deepak Punjabi, 27, had such a bad feeling about the results of the physicians licensure exam that she did not even want to look at them.

It turned out that she not only passed the board exam given by the Professional Regulation Commission, she topped it over 1,596 others who also passed.

“It felt like I was in the twilight zone. It was really unbelievable,” the Baguio-based new doctor told the *Inquirer* in a phone interview.

She said she had known on Tuesday night that the results would be posted on the PRC website the following day but she chose not to look.

“I never planned on looking at the results. I had bad vibes I would not pass,” she said.

She said the exam was so tough she did not harbor any expectations but simply hoped that her batch at the University of Santo Tomas would achieve a hundred-percent passing rate.

She learned that she not only passed but topped the boards from a friend who called her up to break the news. “I was super shocked. I never expected that. A friend told me and I was really surprised,” she said.

The new doctor revealed that UST did not achieve a hundred-percent passing rate but it did get 99 percent.

Punjabi took a pre-medicine course at Saint Louis University in Baguio City and her medicine proper at UST in Manila.

“After I took my internship here in Baguio City, I returned to UST for the one-month review. The school was very supportive of us (reviewers),” Punjabi recalled.

Punjabi was born to Indian parents in Baguio City and is the only doctor in the family.

Calif. hospital sued for alleged discrimination vs Filipinos

FRESNO, Calif.—The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission announced yesterday the filing of a national origin discrimination lawsuit against the Delano Regional Medical Center, an acute care hospital in California’s San Joaquin Valley.

According to the EEOC, the hospital prohibited Filipino staff from speaking Tagalog (or other Filipino languages) while allowing non-Filipino employees to speak other languages, such as Spanish. The EEOC contends that hospital management subjected Filipino

staff to a hostile working environment by singling them out for reprimands in company meetings, threatening them with audio surveillance, and encouraging other staff to report on them.

The Commission alleged that the medical center’s directive created a hostile working environment with supervisors and other staff taunting and threatening the Filipino staff on a regular basis, creating tension between Filipino and non-Filipino employees. This alleged national origin discrimination and harassment violates Title VII of the

Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The EEOC filed the lawsuit in the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California, after efforts to reach a pre-litigation settlement failed. The suit seeks monetary relief in the form of compensatory and punitive damages, and an injunction against future discrimination.

“Employers must ensure that company policies are applied equally,” said Anna Park, regional attorney of the EEOC’s Los Angeles District Office. “Targeting workers of a particular national origin is not only illegal, it also

erodes company morale, pitting groups against one another.”

Melissa Barrios, local director of the EEOC’s Fresno Local Office, added, “The EEOC enforces laws that protect against harassment based on one’s country of origin. The targeting of one group in this particular case for behavior that was condoned for other groups is simply deplorable.” The EEOC enforces federal laws prohibiting employment discrimination. Further information about the EEOC is available on its website at www.eeoc.gov. (**EEOC**)

Cop in torture video faces raps

By TINA SANTOS, JEANNETTE ANDRADE
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Administrative charges will be filed against a Manila police precinct commander and 13 of his men who were allegedly involved in torturing a robbery suspect, a video footage of which was shown on national television on Tuesday.

“There’s no need for a complainant filing the administrative case. Visual evidence is enough,” Leocadio Santiago, director of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), told reporters.

Santiago said the NCRPO would be able to determine the civil and criminal liability of Senior Insp. Joselito Binayug and other policemen involved in two weeks.

“We will be filing a case against Binayug for dereliction of duty but we want something heavier,” Santiago said. “There’s no place for policemen like him in the police force.”

Binayug and his men were relieved after a television news video showed the footage, shot using a cell phone camera, of a naked and bound man, grimacing apparently in great pain on the floor of what was described as the precinct station on Asuncion Street in Tondo, Manila.

The man tugging at the string tied to the genitals of the suspect each time he failed to answer a question was identified as Binayug.

Also on the video were men said to be policemen hitting the suspect while others were looking on.

Binayug has been under restricted custody of Chief Supt. Rodolfo Magtibay, Manila Police District (MPD) director, according to Santiago.

The entire police unit under Binayug will be assigned to a regional training unit while undergoing investigation, the NCRPO chief said.

International issue

The Philippine National Police has formed Task Force Asuncion to probe the alleged torture and determine the appropriate charges against the perpetrators. “This has become a national issue and even an international issue. We won’t be satisfied filing administrative charges. Criminal charges must also be filed,” Santiago said.

The PNP said the police officers would be investigated if they violated Republic Act No. 9745, or the Anti-Torture Act of 2009. Binayug denied any knowledge of the video purportedly showing him as the torturer.

“I will face it in a proper forum. Let

my counsel speak on my behalf,” he told reporters at the MPD headquarters on UN Avenue. He granted the interview on the condition that there would be no cameras and tape recorders.

Binayug, who has been in the police service for 15 years, said he did not know anything about what was shown on TV when asked about it.

Visibly anxious over the accusation, Binayug paced the floor, sat and stood up from an arm chair as he spoke to reporters. He constantly fiddled with his mobile phones and toyed with a ball cap, alternately removing and wearing it.

He made comments about previous cases he handled in which he figured in shoot-outs with suspected robbers and emphasized that the incidents had complainants.

Reputation destroyed

Binayug seemed to be fighting back tears when he remarked that with his reputation destroyed he was more concerned with his children.

He briefly mentioned that one of his children had been held up near a precinct and told reporters that if they had children, they would know how it felt.

In an attempt to curb the torture of suspects, the Department of Interior and Local Government said it would probe police personnel facing various charges.

Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo told the *Inquirer* on Wednesday that

the DILG would review records of cases filed against policemen and their service records to determine if any of them would need to be relieved and to undergo a new round of neuropsychiatric evaluation.

“We want to send a message that this kind of behavior and culture will not be tolerated,” Robredo said.

He also said he would move to make the investigations against alleged abuses committed by police personnel “speedier and more credible.” As interior secretary, Robredo chairs the National Police Commission, which has administrative and operational control over the PNP.

A charge of kidnap for ransom was filed in 2005 by the National Bureau of Investigation against Binayug and five other policemen of the Western Police District (now the Manila Police District).

Binayug, then a police lieutenant, and his men allegedly posed as agents of the NBI and abducted mobile phone store owner Roberto Ong. The businessman was allegedly released after coughing up P18,000 in cash and more than P1 million worth of mobile phones.

But Binayug Thursday said that the only charge he ever faced was an administrative case where he failed to appear before a court for a hearing in a drug case.

Magtibay told the *Inquirer* that the MPD would be looking into incidents

in which Binayug figured in shoot-outs with suspected robbers.

Based on reports, Binayug and his men last figured in an alleged shoot-out with a suspected robber on Aug. 13. Apart from that incident, he engaged suspects in armed encounters in which one of his men or he himself was victimized by robbers.

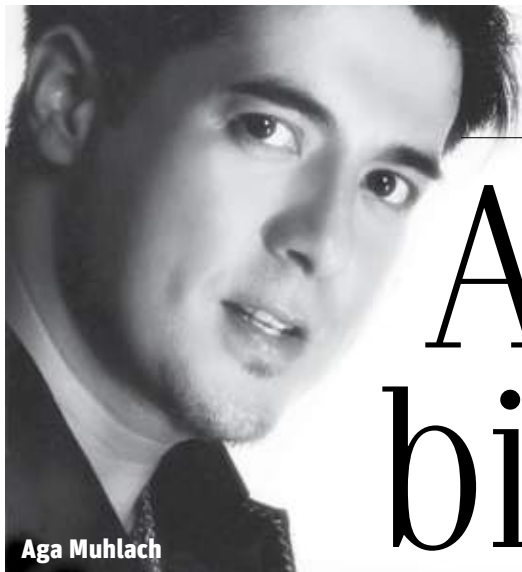
Best police outpost

The Asuncion precinct, which Binayug leads, was awarded in January by Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim as the best police outpost of the year during the MPD anniversary, for at least six instances in which the police captain and his men neutralized suspected robbers in armed encounters.

As part of the investigation, Magtibay said he had directed the Asuncion precinct to surrender its blotter book to the NCRPO task force to establish the time when the video was taken and to determine the identity of the victim.

“We are hoping that other policemen who know something about this come out in the open and describe in detail what happened,” he said.

The MPD director said not all of policemen assigned to the precinct were involved in the actual torture but the policemen were suspended as part of standard operating procedure. **With reports from Kristine L. Alave and Alcuin Papa**



Aga Muhlach

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Aga celebrates first birthday as grandpa

My gorgeous ahijada, Alyanna (eldest daughter of Albert and Liezl Martinez), had a very important mission in Hong Kong. She went on a single-day trip to pick up Charlene Gonzales-Muhlach's birthday gift to her "forever bagets" hubby Aga: A limited edition IWC watch (only 500 pieces were manufactured).

Ags more than deserves the million-peso watch because he's truly one in a million. It's his first birthday as a lolo (to Igiboy's son Alejandro) so he has all the more reason to celebrate. The Muhlach charm lives on.

I texted Aga on the eve of his 41st birthday. His reply: "Thanks Dolls. Nandito lang ako for you always." Likewise, Ags. I'm forever in your corner.

K for Kapatid?

A close friend of Korina Sanchez told me she might move to TV5 if ABS-CBN doesn't have major plans for her. The multi-awarded broadcaster would be a welcome addition to the fast-growing network.

I texted Korina for the real score. Her reply: "Ikaw talaga sister, fishing ka ha! Am not talking to anyone but ABS-CBN. Am currently waiting for their plans for the resumption of my work."

'Win na win'

I bumped into Tito Joey de Leon at James Cooper Salon (where we are both suki). He's overjoyed that "Eat Bulaga" is lording it over "Pilipinas Win na Win" in the ratings game.

What are his sentiments about Willie Revilla's terminating his contract with ABS-CBN? "Mahirap talaga banggain ang network," he said. "Malaking gulo ang napasukan ni Willie pero sa damina ng pinagdaanan niya, sigurado na kakayanin niya 'yan. Ang nakakagulat na balita yung paano nalusutan ang mga guards sa Dos nung tao na nagtangkang mag-kidnap kay Sarah Geronimo."

Yap fanatics

Avid supporters of James Yap booed the ABS-CBN crew during the coverage of the PBA championship games where he was proclaimed MVP. Yap's fans chanted in unison, "Pilipinas Lose na Lose, ayaw namin dyan."

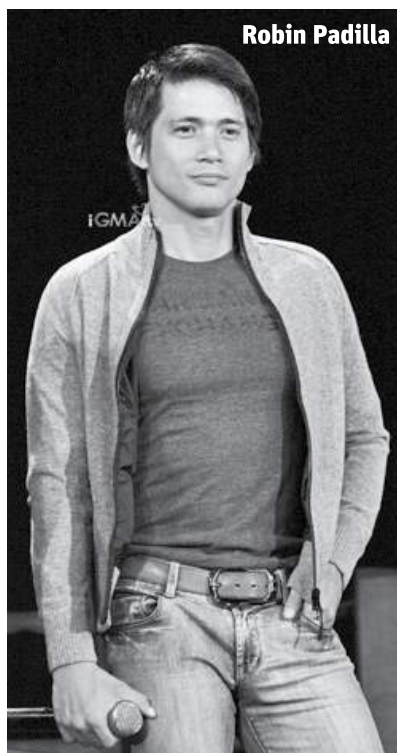
You can't blame them for the way they feel toward the network and, by association, the show of James' ex-wife Kris Aquino. That's what fanatics are for.

'Last' concert

Groom-to-be Ogie Alcasid is more than inspired for his coming concert with Ryan Cayabyab, "O.C. at the PICC," on Oct. 8 at 8 p.m. (Call 544-7906). Special guests are Noel Cabangon and the Ryan Cayabyab singers.

Since it will be his last concert as a single man, will it influence his choice of songs? "Definitely," he replied. "But I will have a surprise in the show."

Mr. C promised to compose a special wedding song for Ogie and Regine. His ex-wife Michelle van Eimeren will have a participation in the nuptials. "She has a thriving floral business in Australia," Ogie said, "so she will do our floral arrangement. The big day won't be complete without Michelle, her husband Mark and our kids."



Robin Padilla

What lesson did he learn from his first marriage which he will apply to his second one? "That's a tough question," he said. "I guess it's the level of maturity and depth of the commitment to each other. Having a failed marriage is not something to be proud of. So now that I'm blessed to have a second crack at it, I'll make sure I behave (laughs) and make it for keeps."

Liezel Sicangco claims that her ex-husband Robin Padilla is not fulfilling his paternal duties because his world now revolves around Mariel Rodriguez. The Australia-based "Snow White" (Binoe's pet name for Liezel) insists that she allowed Binoe to bring their kids

to Manila because he promised not to remarry. But she was the first one to get hitched again.

It's unfair that, although she has found a new love, she doesn't want Binoe to love again. I've known Binoe since his struggling days. I can vouch for his kind-heartedness even to strangers. And speaking from experience, he pampers a woman like a queen. So there's no way he would treat his kids any less.

Two very popular politicians, both married, are said to be wooing a gorgeous lady who works in a Quezon City hotel. The girl's nickname starts with a B. "Katipo siya ni Lucy Torres," my source reveals. "Class at disente. Kaya contest yung dalawang politico sa pag-hang out sa hotel para maka-score sila."

Are their wives the last ones to know, or are they already immune to their husbands' philandering ways? Aside from a lifestyle check, maybe politicians should also undergo a fidelity test?

Cesar Montano threw a lavish 80th birthday party for his beloved Nanay Emma at Plaza Ibarra. The event's highlight was a video tribute which Buboy made himself.

"Pinagpuyatan niya talaga yan," beams wife Sunshine. "He had his taping schedules moved para matapos niya ang video." A heartwarming showcase of old family photographs, the video climaxed with a message from Nanay Ems' former suitor, which brought the house down. Buboy sent his staff to Iloilo to look for his mom's old admirer. He even translated the Ilonggo message of the guy for the benefit of the guests.

To top it all, there were pictures of

Buboy's late dad and departed siblings which were made to appear like they were speaking (via digital tricks). Buboy actually did the voiceover which was super hilarious.

The celebration made me miss my mom, whose birthday was a few days before Nanay Ems'. It reminded me of what my mom used to say: "If you want to know if a guy is really good, look at the way he treats his mother." Buboy showed us how that night.

On TV, Richard Gutierrez is called the Prime-Time King. On the big screen, he's the ultimate leading man.

The tag comes from Claudine Barretto, one of his leading ladies in "In Your Eyes," which opens tomorrow. In this Viva and GMA joint venture, Richard has daring and baring love scenes with Anne Curtis and Claudine. He portrays a man torn between two sisters.

I cornered Ruffa to ask if her brother was ever torn that way. "Never," she said. "He sticks to one and never got confused. But I know someone who was! Chard is a one-woman-man. When he had Georgina Wilson as GF, he was loyal even if it was a long-distance relationship."

Paolo Santos and his wife Gigi are expecting a new baby. "Doble ingat kami ngayon," Paolo says, "cause Gigi already had a miscarriage. We're two and a half months pregnant. Ako ata ang naglilihi kaya lalo akong pumapayat." For sure the Acoustic King will compose sweet lullabies for his baby and sing him to sleep. The cooing of his firstborn far outweighs the deafening applause of all his sold-out gigs combined.

Willie hasn't thrown in the towel

Despite a clamor, real or dubious, on YouTube, "Wowowee" may not be returning to television anytime soon. At least not on TV 5, as rumored on Wednesday.

In a statement sent to Inquirer, TV5 Entertainment head Perci Intalan denied the reports.

Willie Revillame, whose daily noontime show was axed by ABS-CBN, has declared himself free to negotiate with other networks and was alleged to be dealing with TV5 and GMA 7. Neither station has confirmed this, possibly, observers say, because Revillame's contract with ABS-CBN is binding until September 2011.

The TV host is not throwing in the towel just yet. A source told Inquirer that Revillame was in Boracay at press time brainstorming for a new show with 23 crew members of "Wowowee"—including business

unit head Jay Montelibano, singer-composer Lito Camo, 10 dancers, three writers, make-up artists and utility personnel.

The source said all 23 had left the show, and that even Mariel Rodriguez, one of the hosts retained for the replacement show, "Pilipinas Win Na Win," was not coming back to ABS-CBN from a supposed vacation in Hong Kong. Earlier, Robin Padilla, a PWNW mainstay on leave for Ramadan, was said to be thinking twice about coming back.

Less than a month old, PWNW has changed slots twice, now airs at 2 p.m. On the TV5 gabfest "Paparazzi," Revillame offered his former "Wowowee" staffers higher salaries "even before we have a new show," and vowed to resume TV work "before the year ends." (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)



Revillame

Claudine not naming subject of her angry Twitter posts

By MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Actress Claudine Barretto was careful not to identify the subject of her angry posts on Twitter recently, saying the person was "not important."

"I just expressed my hurt feelings. Whoever that person was and why I reacted that way are no longer important—*tapos na 'yon*," Claudine told several writers during a press conference for her movie *In Your Eyes* on Tuesday.

"You're not worth it, girl. I'll keep praying for your soul. *Napakasama ng ginawa mo*," Claudine said in one of the Twitter messages. Speculations are rife that she was referring to Angelica Panganiban, who had a tiff with her older sister Gretchen.

On Aug. 4, Claudine tweeted: "Don't mess with my family... *Sana mangyari*

sa 'yo 'to if pakasalan ka... Sana ma-remember mo yung magagandang bagay na ginawa namin ng family ko for you... Di pa tapos 'to..."

Gretchen and Angelica had a minor word war in July. On Aug. 8, on the talk show "The Buzz," Angelica apologized to Gretchen.

On Tuesday, Claudine told reporters that she was naturally protective of loved ones. "I can't allow them to get hurt, whether they're family members or friends."

Actress
Claudine
Barretto



Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Loose lips

To cut to the chase, the voluble Rear Adm. Feliciano Angue has raised two issues—a new assignment that he describes as unjust, and the purported attempts to rig the 2004 presidential election—and the first is overshadowing the second. There, in the general perception, lies the problem: He is merely exercising bad form in griping about losing a potential three-star post—a personal matter, any way one slices it.

So is that a crime? it may be asked. Well, that sure comes close to it in the Armed Forces, where the chain of command is paramount, and where questioning a superior's order is tantamount to insubordination. Muntinlupa Rep. Rodolfo Biazon (who should know, having been a long-time man in uniform, an AFP chief of staff, and a defense secretary) put it quite succinctly on ANC: "As a soldier, you pretty much surrender your civil liberties." Meaning, you do as you're told even if you think the order stinks. You zip your lips particularly in the presence of members of the media. And if you truly can't live with the card you've been dealt, there is a proper forum to air your beef, which is the grievance committee.

In the third and latest wave of reassignments in the military since President Aquino was sworn into office on June 30, Angue was removed as commander of the National Capital Region Command and assigned to head the Naval Forces Western Mindanao based in Zamboanga City. He thinks this is an unfair development but has been careful to say that he will turn over the NCRCom and heed the order for him to report back to the Navy. Still, he has been startlingly candid not only in a speech to his troops on Monday but also in various interviews with the media, claiming the "humiliation of demotion" and politicking as the cause thereof, invoking "professionalism" and the necessity of shunning "political connections," even demanding quite dramatically: "Why do this to me and what wrong have I done?"

The Commander in Chief has, as he should, made short shrift of Angue's protestations, calmly saying that a subordinate debating an order from a superior is just not done.

Indeed, if Angue, after 32 years as an AFP officer, has yet to apprehend that stark fact, it may be because of the misplaced idea of privilege that pushed the putschist types to dream of military over civilian supremacy, as what the first Aquino administration was forced to endure. Or if not that, he is being surprisingly naive to think that merit—his own, whether perceived or real—will be recognized purely for what it is and rewarded accordingly in an institution that is as old-boy, as tribal, as they come.

What has happened, as explained by Lt. Gen. Ricardo David, the AFP chief of staff, is that Angue was not demoted but was, rather, not promoted, there being "no recommendation to promote him." David has also denied the purported politicking that, Angue said, led not only to his "demotion" but also to the relief of some of his classmates in the Philippine Military Academy (that veritable hot-house known to breed both tender grapes and poison apples).

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Rumblings of a mutiny

For the second time after his inauguration on June 30, President Aquino struck down this week challenges by senior military leaders to his orders as commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to reorganize the military high command.

Emphatically reasserting the principle of the supremacy of civilian leadership over the military, the President told Rear Adm. Feliciano Angue in no uncertain terms to follow the order reassigning him from the command of the AFP National Capital Region to the Naval Forces Western Mindanao based in Zamboanga City. "That is my decision, so he should follow," the President said. "It's that simple. We cannot just allow a subordinate to debate with us and with our orders every time, otherwise there would be disorder."

Bringing his protest against the order to the arena of public debate, Angue protested his "demotion," after the military high command relieved him of his command of the NCR. He accused unidentified military officers of unfairly lumping him with a group of his Philippine Military Academy classmates who took advantage of their ties with then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to get plum positions.

In media interviews Angue complained that he was denied promotion to three stars because of "politicking" by senior officers close to Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin. Angue has turned over command of NCR to his PMA classmate, Maj. Gen. Arthur Tabaguer. But despite this, he has continued to criticize his reassignment in media interviews, an act that has incensed the President, who considered it as a challenge to the decision of the commander in chief, and a violation of the principle of the supremacy of civilian authority over the military, a principle to which the President appears to be highly sensitive. Mr. Aquino appears to have no tolerance for military disobedience and breach of the military chain of command by disgruntled officers.

Quezon: dead or alive?

Manuel Luis Quezon is the face on the P20 bill. He is best remembered as the President of the Philippine Commonwealth and is also referred to as the "Father of the National Language." The former capital of the Philippines, Quezon City, bears his name. He passed away on Aug. 1, 1944, in Camp McMartin, Saranac Lake, New York, as the President of the Philippine Government-in-Exile. He did not live to see his dream of a free and independent Philippines.

The day after his death, Quezon's remains were transported by train from New York to Washington, D.C. where he lay in state at St. Matthew's Cathedral. Then he was interred temporarily in Arlington National Cemetery to await the return to the land of his birth.

Quezon's remains were returned to the Philippines in 1946. The casket was transported by train from Washington, D.C. to San Diego, California, then by the US aircraft carrier *Princeton* to Manila. The highest ranking U.S. official assigned to accompany the casket back to the Philippines was Frank Murphy, an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and former governor-general of the Philippines, who was designated by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt as his representative in the state funeral in Manila. The U.S. government spent P1,344,880 to transport Quezon's remains from the U.S. to Guam via Saipan to Manila, a trip that took six days. The breakdown of expenses was as follows:

For the carrier's complement of 210 officers and 1,500 men, five tons of food costing around P3,000 daily; for fuel and oil 48,000 gallons costing P60,000; for the 105 Corsair and bomber planes, 40 of which made an average flight of three hours daily, P54,000 worth of high-octane gasoline; for the upkeep of the ship when stationary P1,000 per day or a total of P10,000 for the four-day stop in Honolulu plus six days in Manila; for the pay envelope of the crew, P1,050,000.

Of the 1,500 men on board there were five Fili-

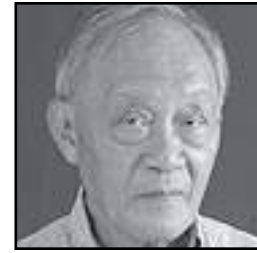
Angue belongs to the PMA Class of 1978 of which Arroyo was an honorary member, and whose other members, led by former AFP Chief of Staff Delfin Bangit, cornered key military posts. Angue said he should have been given a post that carried a three-star rank because the NCR chief carried such a rank.

But a military spokesperson, aware of the effects of disobedience to military assignments and reassignments, took pains to emphasize that Angue's statements were "bordering on insubordination and violation of the AFP Code of Ethics" which bans military personnel from expressing their grievances through the media and "destroying the image of the AFP."

The President was forced to reiterate and to lay down firmly the rule of civilian supremacy over the military, knowing the experience of his mother, former President Corazon Aquino, whose presidency was rocked by no less than seven coup attempts by a rebellious and ill-disciplined military intoxicated by their role in sparking the military revolt against President Ferdinand Marcos led by then Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos and backed by the Reform the Armed Forces Movement headed by Lt. Col. Gregorio Honasan.

In striking down the challenge and insubordination by Angue, the President sent the message that he had taken stern measures to nip in the bud the rumblings of military mutiny before the unrest could spread to the rest of the military establishment. The President's action should be seen as serious in the light of this perspective.

On July 2, two days after his inauguration, Mr. Aquino addressed the AFP in Camp Aguinaldo with



Analysis

By AMANDO DORONILA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

a strong message that civilian authority was superior to the military. He issued the reminder at the handover of the post of chief of staff to Lt. Gen. Ricardo David, and after he had announced that he would not retain Lt. Gen. Delfin Bangit as chief of staff.

In his speech, the President said, "I emphasized that more than anything, loyalty has to be to the institution, to the flag, to the Constitution, and not to any single person or personal interest."

The President is allergic to any sign of military adventurism early in his presidency. After his landslide victory in the election, some quarters in the military were quick to reassure that the Aquino presidency would be less vulnerable to the coup attempts that beset his mother's administration and the military unrest faced by Arroyo because of the issue of illegitimacy that plagued her government over alleged election rigging.

But the germ of military adventurism runs deep in the military establishment, although some key figures of the 1986 military mutiny against Marcos, including Honasan, have entered mainstream parliamentary politics. After Honasan was elected to the Senate, he continued to be involved in military rebellions, as mentor of the Oakwood mutineers in 2003, against the Arroyo government.

Mr. Aquino is well aware that this contagious military interventionist virus is alive in the military establishment. This is the reason why despite his huge electoral mandate, he remains wary of assurances that the era of military intervention has come to an end with the strengthening of electoral politics. This is the reason he is uneasy over any small sign of insubordination by military officers regarding reassignments. Any sign of mutiny has to be stamped out.



Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

thus: "He feared no man; often he dared defeat; he was unimpressed by danger. Quick in his anger, and quick to forgive, warmly loving and cordially hating, enjoying ease, yet indefatigable in labor, stern and soft by speedy turn, sentimental yet realistic, the unquestioned master of the spoken word, loving people so much that he hated solitude—this was the man behind the statesman. This was the sum of all things which added up to that magic and unforgettable personality. This was

the presence which inspired his followers, which awed or won over his enemies, which impressed presidents and kings, which delighted friends, which made him the tender husband and the loving father that he was throughout his life."

Accounts from contemporaries like that quoted above are important to a historian trying to recreate the past and to flesh out a historical figure who has been fossilized in monuments of bronze and marble and whose name and face we see every day but rarely notice.

Quezon's papers are in the National Library in Manila, waiting for the historian who will make sense of them and use them to give us yet another picture of Quezon the man. There are rare recordings of his voice, and even choppy films of him at work and play. Yet nothing beats visiting the Quezon Memorial Shrine, the heart and lung of Quezon City, going past the joggers and amusement park atmosphere into where, under the pylons, the great man rests inside an awesome marble tomb.

We tend to forget that great men were humans like you and me. Visiting Quezon's grave and remembering him once a year reminds us that we too have a capacity for greatness.

Comments are welcome in my FaceBook Fan Page.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari



BUDGET SESSION

Officials of the CNMI Public School System led by Education Commissioner Rita Sablan, seated front, second from left, listen to lawmakers debate during deliberations for the fiscal year 2011 budget bill at the House of Representatives on Aug. 17, 2010.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



From left, legislative assistant BJ Attao, House minority leader Diego T. Benavente, Rep. Joseph P. DeLeon Guerrero, and Rep. Antonio P. Sablan discuss the budget bill during a break in the session at the House of Representatives on Tuesday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



WATER PROJECT

A large sign warn motorists to be on the lookout for AIC Marianas Inc. employees that are working on the Rapogao and Sablan Quarry well fields isolation and water system improvement project on Capital Hill on Thursday. This Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and Water Task Force project is one of the ongoing constructions on Saipan funded by the federal government.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



BULL'S EYE

A tarpaulin covers the hole on the wall of the Horiguchi Building where a van slammed into Tuesday night. The van broke the glass and wood wall then hit three benches in the courtroom.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



ESGR BRIEFING

Close to a hundred members of the U.S. Army Reserve Unit's Echo Company 100th Battalion 442nd Infantry and 302nd Quartermasters listen to one of the speakers (not shown in this photo) from the Guam-CNMI Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve on service members' reemployment rights, at a briefing held at the Reserve Center in Puerto Rico Saturday last week.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Jasmine King, who is celebrating her birthday today, Aug. 21, 2010! Enjoy your special day and may you have many more birthdays to come! Greetings come from Roy, Randall, family, and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



SILENT PROTEST

Former representative Tina Sablan is interviewed by Brad Ruszala during the peaceful rally held by concerned community members in front of the legislative building on Capital Hill to protest the House's passage of the 2011 budget. Holding up the umbrella for them is NMC's Galvin DeLeon Guerrero.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Republican members of the 17th Legislature exchange light banter after a House of Representatives session on Aug. 18 that tackled the contentious spending plan for fiscal year 2011.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



United Workers Movement-CNMI board of directors chair Ronnie Doca, left, and UWM president Rabby Syed, second from right, sign a petition being circulated by former representative Tina Sablan, second from left, during yesterday's silent protest on Capital Hill. One of the petitions asks the 17th Legislature not to increase its operational budget, and to pass a timely, balanced budget for FY 2011. The second petition asks the Office of the Public Auditor to conduct a formal audit of the CNMI Legislature's expenditures from fiscal years 2005 to 2010.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

YoungStyle

Study: 1 in 5 US teenagers has slight hearing loss

CHICAGO (AP)—A stunning one in five teens has lost a little bit of hearing, and the problem has increased substantially in recent years, a new national study has found.

Some experts are urging teenagers to turn down the volume on their digital music players, suggesting loud music through earbuds may be to blame—although hard evidence is lacking. They warn that slight hearing loss can cause problems in school and set the stage for hearing aids in later life.

“Our hope is we can encourage people to be careful,” said the study’s senior author, Dr. Gary Curhan of Harvard-affiliated Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston.

The researchers analyzed data on 12- to 19-year-olds from a nationwide health survey. They compared hearing loss in nearly 3,000 kids tested from 1988-94 to nearly 1,800 kids tested over 2005-06.

The prevalence of hearing loss increased from about 15 percent to 19.5 percent.

Most of the hearing loss was “slight,” defined as inability to hear at 16 to 24 decibels—or sounds such as a whisper or rustling leaves. A teenager with slight hearing loss might not be able to hear water dripping or his mother whispering “good night.”

Extrapolating to the nation’s teens, that would mean about 6.5 million with at least slight hearing loss.

Those with slight hearing loss “will hear all of the vowel sounds clearly, but might miss some of the consonant sounds” such as t, k and s, Curhan said.

“Although speech will be detectable, it might not be fully intelligible,” he said.

While the researchers didn’t

single out iPods or any other device for blame, they found a significant increase in high-frequency hearing loss, which they said may indicate that noise caused the problems. And they cited a 2010 Australian study that linked use of personal listening devices with a 70 percent increased risk of hearing loss in children.

“I think the evidence is out there that prolonged exposure to loud noise is likely to be harmful to hearing, but that doesn’t mean kids can’t listen to MP3 players,” Curhan said.

The study is based on data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey conducted by a branch of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The findings appear in Wednesday’s *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Loud music isn’t new, of course. Each new generation of teenagers has found a new technology to blast music—from the bulky headphones of the 1960s to the handheld Sony Walkmans of the 1980s.

Today’s young people are listening longer, more than twice as long as previous generations, said Brian Fligor, an audiologist at Children’s Hospital Boston. The older technologies had limited battery life and limited music storage, he said.

Apple iPod users can set their own volume limits. Parents can use the feature to set a maximum volume on their child’s iPod and lock it with a code.

One of Fligor’s patients, 17-year-old Matthew Brady of Foxborough, Mass., recently was diagnosed with mild hearing loss. He has trouble hearing his friends in the school cafeteria. He ends up faking comprehension.

“I laugh when they laugh,” he said.

Fligor believes Brady’s muffled hearing was caused by listening to an iPod turned



In this Aug. 13, 2010 photo, Matthew Brady, 17, of Foxborough, Mass., poses for a portrait in his home while wearing ear phones and displaying an iPod, Friday. Brady, who has some mild hearing loss, used to listen to the device while running on a treadmill with the volume turned up. A stunning number of teens have lost a little bit of their hearing—nearly one in five—and the problem has increased substantially in recent years, a new national study has found.

Youth Olympics features 100m, search for next Bolt

SINGAPORE (AP)—Britain’s David Bolarinwa and Jamaica’s Odane Skeen won their qualifying heats in the 100 meters at the Youth Olympics on Wednesday, setting up a final between two sprinters touted as possibly the next Usain Bolt.

Bolarinwa blew away the field in his heat, finishing in 10.62 seconds. Skeen got out slowly but surged to run 10.63 and beat Thailand’s Jirapong Meenapra.

The 16-year-old Bolarinwa has the fastest time this year among 16- and 17-year-olds—a 10.39 in London this month. Skeen, a 15-year-old whose lanky style has some likening him to his compatriot Bolt, ran a 10.46 in Jamaica.

“I thought ‘let me go there, go hard and see if anyone can go faster,’” Bolarinwa said. “It was a good performance overall.”

Skeen was less thrilled with his race, blaming his slower time on two false starts by other competitors. But he said come Saturday’s final, he would win.

Bolarinwa and Skeen will face each other for the first time. Skeen was surprised to learn Bolarinwa has posted the fastest 100 this year. Marvin Bracy of the United States ran the second fastest, but is not competing at the games.

Organizers of the first



Odane Skeen of Jamaica, left, and Jirapong Meenapra of Thailand, right, compete in the boy’s 100 meters at the Youth Olympics on Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2010, in Singapore.

Youth Olympics have emphasized participation rather than winning, but that was lost on Bolarinwa and Skeen.

“It’s a big showdown,” Bolarinwa said. “He’s not really a quick starter. We know that already,” Bolarinwa said. “His pickup is fantastic and so is mine. If I get a good start, he’ll have to take me.”

Bolarinwa’s coach John Powell chimed in later: “Bring it on.”

Both boys seemed to relish the comparison to Bolt and their budding rivalry to that of Bolt and Tyson Gay. Told he has been compared to Bolt, Skeen just smiled and said he dreams of surpassing his idol.

“I want to be better than Bolt,” said Skeen, whose goal it is to win gold at the 2012 Olympics in London.

Bolarinwa enjoyed being lik-

ened to the two sprinting greats, but wants to surpass them.

“These guys are fantastic. You look at what they have done. You want to be better than them,” Bolarinwa said. “But it’s good to have them in the back your mind to look up to.”

Watching Skeen’s heat, Powell said he saw some of Bolt in Skeen. But he was quick to point out that a lot can change with an athlete by the time they reach adulthood. He noted that Bolt, for example, started out running 200- and 400-meter before exploding on the stage in the 100.

In other events, Lithuania rower Rolandas Maseckas upset Germany’s two-time world junior champion German Felix Bach to win the junior men’s single sculls gold.

In the women’s single sculls,

up too loud and for too long. After his mother had a heart attack, Brady’s pediatrician had advised him to exercise for his own health. So he cranked up the volume on his favorites—John Mellencamp, Daughtry, Bon Jovi and U2—while walking on a treadmill at least four days a week for 30-minute stretches.

One day last summer, he got off the treadmill and found he couldn’t hear anything with his left ear. His hearing gradually returned, but was never the same.

Some young people turn their digital players up to levels that would exceed federal workplace exposure limits, said Fligor. In Fligor’s own study of about 200 New York college students, more than half listened to music at 85 decibels or louder. That’s about as loud as a hair dryer or a vacuum cleaner.

Habitual listening at those levels can turn microscopic hair cells in the inner ear into scar tissue, Fligor said. Some people may be more predisposed to damage than others; Fligor believes Brady is one of them.

These days, Brady still listens to his digital player, but at lower volumes.

“Do not blare your iPod,” he said. “It’s only going to hurt your hearing. I learned this the hard way.”

Judith Sievers of Germany beat Nataliia Kovalova of the Ukraine. Britain defeated Australia for the women’s pair final to claim its second gold in two days. Slovenia edged Greece in the men’s final.

In men’s weightlifting, Russia’s Artem Okulov took gold ahead of Thailand’s Chatuphum Chinnawong. Russian lifters won another gold and a silver on Wednesday.

In the swimming events, Australia won four medals but no golds, while local favorite Rainer Ng of Singapore won the silver in the 50-meter backstroke after being edged by Trinidad and Tobago’s Christian Homer.

Italy won gold after Flavio Bizzarri upset the favorite Nicholas Schafer of Australia in the 200-meter breaststroke.

In tennis, unseeded Zheng Saisai of China upset third-seeded Tímea Babos of Hungary 6-4, 6-1 to set up a final against Russia’s Daria Gavrilova.

China has 11 golds and 18 overall medals while Russia has 10 golds and 22 overall. Azerbaijan is third with five golds, while Italy has four.

The United States had only one gold medal by the end of the fourth day of competition, earning silver in girl’s swimming, boy’s wrestling and boy’s fencing.

Brazil teen sensation Neymar staying with club

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Brazil striker Neymar is staying with Santos and away from the big-spending European clubs for the time being.

The 18-year-old, considered one of the best young players Brazil has produced in years, had been linked to Chelsea of the Premier League. But that was before his current Brazilian team announced Thursday’s deal.

Santos’ president Luis Alvaro

says reporters that bonuses and increased efforts at merchandising deals will increase Neymar’s pay from \$1.2 million annually.

Neymar scored a goal in his debut game for Brazil, Aug. 10 against the United States in a 2-0 win at the New Meadowlands Stadium.

He also helped Santos win this year’s traditional Sao Paulo state championship and the Brazilian Cup.

Life & Style

PHILADELPHIA—As Nanny McPhee, the sensible antidote to Mary Poppins, Emma Thompson is snaggleteethed and warty, firmly dispensing gallons of tough love rather than spoonfuls of sugar. As herself, the English actress and author is pearly of tooth and creamy of complexion, mischief beaming from almond-shaped eyes.

"Nanny McPhee Returns," a corking fantasy in which pigs fly and birds do not, multiplexes this week. Last week Thompson, screenwriter and star of the sequel to the 2005 charmer, enchanted 100 children at the Free Library of Philadelphia. Stretching and snapping her elastic voice like an instrument, she

"If it happens, stern words will occur," she says. "We don't do punishment. Conflicts can be resolved in a quieter manner." In the unlikely event that Gaia did explode with "Mummy, you are such a 'epithet rhyming with 'stitch'" Thompson would respond, "I suspect you're right. Anything else you want to tell me?"

Still, Thompson, who is also mother to Tindyebwa Agaba, 23, a Rwandan refugee whom she and Wise adopted when he was 16, is no stranger to the extremes of filial love and hate. On the corkboard above her writing desk at home in London are two letters from Gaia. "You're the best Mum in the universe," reads one. The other: "Mom, you're the worst mother. You just don't understand."

"They're both right," says Thomp-

EMMA THOMPSON

on child rearing, screenwriting and acting

By Carrie Rickey
The Philadelphia Inquirer

explained how special-effects wizards made the piglets take wing. Know, however, that the crow perched on Nanny's shoulder is real. Thompson confided that she surreptitiously fed it so it stayed put.

The grown-ups in the audience were more interested in the disciplinary special effects of Nanny M, under whose magical influence quarrelsome brats stop fighting and start sharing. Given the inquisitive children at the library, the adults didn't have a chance to ask their questions.

But prior to her animated session with the youth from Kids for Change, which supports children at risk, and Project H.O.M.E., a shelter program for homeless woman and children, Thompson, the mother of Gaia, 11, considered how she might disarm a toxic tween. Not that it's necessary in her house. (She is wed to Greg Wise, Willoughby in "Sense and Sensibility," for which she won a screenplay Oscar, mate to her best-actress statuette for "Howards End.")

"Rudeness we don't like," she says, merry eyes mitigating somber precept.

son, amused and happy to be the fulcrum on which Gaia finds her balance. Thompson's easy child-side manner may be genetic: Her father, actor Eric Thompson, created the beloved BBC children's hour "The Magic Roundabout." In adapting Christianna Brand's "Nurse Matilda" books for Nanny McPhee, Thompson drew on the Westerns she enjoyed watching with her father. She conceived of Nanny as a Shane of the nursery: a figure who comes to help the household and leaves when her work is done.

At 51, Emma Thompson is an institution as beloved in America as she is in her native England. Like Meryl Streep, she is universally admired for her spirit and wit. She exemplifies the distinction that George Meredith made when he wrote, "A witty woman is a treasure; a witty beauty is a power." She wields her power wisely. As both an actress and a screenwriter, she creates women and men who are complex, difficult, indelible.

Thompson Inc. is diversified. Admirably so. She can go dramatic ("How-



AP
British actress Emma Thompson celebrates toasts with a pint and a pig is honored with a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in front of the Pig 'n Whistle pub on Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles on Friday, Aug. 6, 2010.

ards End," "The Remains of the Day") or comic ("Impromptu," "Much Ado About Nothing"), but her forte is the serious comedy ("Sense and Sensibility"). She appeals equally to adults ("Primary Colors," "Last Chance Harvey") and juveniles ("Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban," "Nanny McPhee"). Plus, she writes her own scripts.

The graduate of Cambridge University (where she acted with fellow students Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie, with whom she was romantically involved) began writing for her eponymous 1988 BBC television show "Thompson." But it wasn't until she made "Dead Again," the 1991 film noir with first husband Kenneth Branagh, that producer Lindsay Doran urged her to write a screenplay.

"She helped me, nourished me, and mentored me through that process," Thompson recalls. "I learned about screenwriting at her feet." The result was "Sense and Sensibility," which Doran, known wryly in Hollywood circles as "the script whisperer," produced and in which Thompson co-starred. Thompson walked away with a screenwriting Oscar and down the aisle with co-star Wise.

Since then, Thompson and Doran have worked together on "Stranger Than Fiction" and the two "Nanny McPhees" and have become collaboratorers, colleagues who dote on each other.

Scriptwriting is now Thompson's second career. She is working on a rethink of "My Fair Lady"—a kneading of the emotional center," as she puts it, highlighting the relationship between flower-

seller Eliza Doolittle and the father who sells her to linguist Henry Higgins.

While "Hollywood has been lovely, welcoming, kind—and quite generous, considering that I'm a foreigner," there are things that Thompson doesn't get about the film capital.

"I don't like the body fascism of Hollywood," the expectation "that you have to be this shape or that. Or that you have to be this young. I find it anxiety-producing," she says.

And then, there are things Hollywood doesn't get about Thompson. "They don't get her integrity," says Doran, who recalls that when "Sense and Sensibility" was about to be released, Thompson refused permission to publish a "novelization" of her screenplay with her as the author. "Emma had to explain, 'There's a perfectly fine Jane Austen novel, I just nicked it.'"

(Ultimately, Thompson's "Sense and Sensibility: The Screenplay and Diaries" was published, an invaluable volume with a lovely foreword by Doran.)

"In Hollywood, when I hear, 'We don't have a class system,' I always laugh," Thompson says. "There certainly is a star system, something that London wouldn't tolerate."

"In my country, success can be dealt with but it's something to be vaguely ashamed of. We don't put our artists on pedestals," she says. "And if that happens, the brickbats come flying fast and furious."

Ricky Martin's autobiography due in November



AP
In this book cover image released by Celine, the cover of the English edition of Ricky Martin's memoir, "Me," is shown.

NEW YORK (AP)—Ricky Martin has picked an appropriate title for his autobiography: "Me."

The Puerto Rican singer is set to release his memoir on Nov. 2. It will also be released in Spanish the same day. That edition will be titled "Yo," which is Spanish for "I" and "me."

Martin has said that preparing to write the book was one of the reasons he decided to reveal earlier this year that he is gay.

Martin said in a statement Thursday that the project led him to extract memories that he had erased from his mind. He says the book was not easy but allowed for an "incredible spiritual journey."

At 82, Dr. Ruth has more than sex on her mind

BY ARON HELLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—Dr. Ruth Westheimer, the world renowned sexpert, is in Israel probing something completely new.

She's researching the country's tiny Circassian Muslim community for a PBS documentary. The work follows similar films she has made in recent years about other minority groups in Israel, such as the Bedouin, the Druse and the Ethiopian Jews.

It's quite a contrast in subjects for the octogenarian sex guru. She says the projects have sparked her curiosity at a time when she has little new to add in the field that made her famous.

"I didn't want to have to talk about the things that I knew already. I don't have any new research. There is nothing new under the sun," she said, in her immedi-

ately recognizable German-accented English.

But that doesn't stop people the world over from stopping the 82-year-old, bespectacled, diminutive grandmother and widow with intimate questions about their own sex life.

"Sex is still the most interesting subject under the sun," she said. "People will say my wife is too tired or my husband is too tired, and I listen and I say 'go for help.'"

"I want people to see me or read about me and think about sex," she said.

The psychosexual therapist ushered in a new era of speaking openly about sexual matters with her call-in radio show, Sexually Speaking, in 1980. She quickly became a sought after speaker and has written 32 books, most about sex.



Westheimer

Ruth Westheimer would seem an odd choice to become an international sex icon. Born in Germany to an Orthodox Jewish family, she was saved from the Holocaust when her parents sent her to an orphanage. Much of her family perished in the war.

She immigrated to Israel as a teenager and was later seriously wounded fighting in the two-year war that followed Israel's creation in 1948. She moved to the U.S. in 1956.

Israel is also where she says she had her first sexual experiences.

She's a cult hero here as well. During her current visit, she appeared on morning TV talk shows conversing fluently in Hebrew—one of the four languages she speaks.

She said she raises the money for her documentary projects by promis-

ing donors "good sex for life."

She still has a small practice in New York and teaches at Yale and Princeton universities and her most recent focus revolves around the Internet, warning that social networking and other online tools are replacing real intimacy.

"It is a catastrophe, all of this virtual being together," she said. "I think there are people who get hooked on the Internet. If they need to look at explicitly sexual material to be aroused there is a problem ... I am worried that the next generation will not be able to have a real conversation."

She said it was all part of a trend of "more openness but less intimacy."

Still, she takes pride in her role of improving people's marriages by helping them improve their sex lives.

"There are less woman who haven't heard the message that a woman has to take responsibility for her own orgasm," she said.

Colbert to honor troops returning from Iraq

NEW YORK (AP)—Stephen Colbert is dusting off his camouflage suit.

The comedian will broadcast two special episodes of Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report" to celebrate the end of combat operations in Iraq and to honor returning troops.

On Sept. 8 and 9, the show will fill its audience with Iraq War veterans and active duty service men and women. Others will be beamed in via satellite from Iraq, Afghanistan and the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

"The Report," which likes to parody over-the-top cable news graphics, is calling the episodes "Been There: Won That: The Returnification of the American-Do Troopscape."

Guests will include Vice President Joe Biden, U.S. Sen. Jim Webb and the U.S. military commander in Iraq, Gen. Ray Odierno.

Odierno famously shaved Colbert's head—on President Barack Obama's orders—when the comedian broadcast four episodes of "The Report" from Baghdad last year. On that visit, Colbert donned a camouflage suit and reported from a desk supported by sand bags.

One of those Iraq episodes earned "The Report" an Emmy nomination for writing for a variety, music or comedy series. The show has three nominations, including for outstanding variety, music or comedy series, heading into the Emmy Awards on Aug. 29.

The 4th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, which exited Iraq on Wednesday, officially was designated the last combat brigade to leave Iraq under Obama's plan to end combat operations there by Aug. 31. Some 50,000 members will stay another year in what is designated as a noncombat role.

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Armstrong, Wonder join anti-cancer telethon

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lance Armstrong, Robin Roberts and Michael C. Hall are among the celebrities affected by cancer who will take part in a TV fundraiser next month.

"Stand Up to Cancer" announced Thursday appearances by other actors, athletes and musicians who have faced the disease, including Maura Tierney, Christina Applegate and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

Elizabeth Edwards, who kicked off the first "Stand Up to Cancer" telethon in 2008 with Armstrong, is taking part again.

One of the night's musical performances will be led by Steve Wonder and include Natasha Bedingfield, Queen Latifah, Martina McBride, Aaron Neville and Dave Stewart.

"Stand Up to Cancer" will air commercial-free Sept. 10 (8 p.m.-9 p.m. EDT) on the four major broadcast networks, ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC, as well as on a number of cable channels. News anchors Katie Couric, Diane Sawyer and Brian Williams are the hosts.

Others set to appear include Reese Witherspoon, Mandy Moore, Apolo Anton Ohno and Jim Parsons.

Film and TV producer Laura Ziskin (the "Spider-Man" franchise), a cancer survivor who produced the first telecast, has taken on the job again.

"On Sept. 10, we'll send a resounding message: We can cure cancer. It's going to take guts, brains and the ongoing support of the public, but we can do this," Ziskin said.

The 2008 event helped deliver more than \$100 million for research.

The American Association for Cancer Research, the scientific partner of Stand Up to Cancer, administers grants and provides scientific oversight in partnership with a Stand Up to Cancer advisory committee.

Teen mom is pushed around by her baby daddy's mama

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I'm a teen mom who feels like I am being taken advantage of by my newborn's grandmother. (I'll call her "Liz.") My baby's father, "Todd," lives with her. They provide no financial support.

Liz puts me on the spot constantly and makes me feel bad if I tell her she can't have the baby that day or take her to a certain place. Since day one, she has wanted to take my baby out of town. That bothers me because I don't want my daughter going out of town unless I am with her.

I feel obligated to let Todd's mother see the baby all the time to avoid the drama she would cause in my life if I don't. I don't want to be mean, but I need to let her know how I feel. How do I approach her?

YOUNG MOM IN RICHMOND, IND.

DEAR YOUNG MOM: No one can be taken advantage of unless she (or he) allows it. Do not allow anyone—no matter how well-intentioned—to do anything with your baby that makes you uncomfortable. You may be young, but as a mother you are responsible for your child's welfare.

Do not "approach" Liz; let her approach you. When she does, be polite, firm and stand your ground. If she tries to turn it into a power struggle, end the conversation. Do not allow her to make you lose your temper.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend of four years, "Omar," and I have been having major arguments lately. They're about the relationship he has with his sister. I feel he confides in her more than he does me.

I realize she's his sister, but he consults her about finances, what kind of pet to buy, how things are going at work, etc. He's never open with me about those issues. He shuts me out to the point that I have told him if it doesn't change, we're through. He says I'm "overreacting."

Even more peculiar, she makes phone calls for Omar—like when his mortgage payment was late or when he had to ask the IRS a tax question. Omar is 34 and should be handling these things himself.

It galls me when he puts her on a pedestal and puts me down when I make a mistake. I'm a single mom, doing well on my own, but he refuses to acknowledge it. What should I do?

SECOND FIDDLE IN ARIZONA

DEAR SECOND FIDDLE: It is possible that Omar's sister has been running his life for so long that she's the first person he thinks of when he gets into a bind. And obviously she has done a capable job of it, or he wouldn't keep having her intercede for him.

It should be clear to you by now that putting yourself in competition with her is getting you nowhere. So accept the two of them as a package deal or find a man who is independent.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am 21 and recently became engaged to my boyfriend of three years. We are trying to pull off a wedding on a budget. My parents dislike my fiancée, so we are footing the bill.

My fiancée's mom owns a beauty salon and, in the past, has offered to cut and highlight my hair. I have accepted twice in the last two years. She also fixed my hair for my university mixer. Would it be appropriate to ask her, as the mother of the groom, to fix my hair on my wedding day?

BUDGETING IN FAIRFAX, VA.

DEAR BUDGETING: I see nothing inappropriate about it. Go ahead and ask.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)



AP

In this July 3, 2010 file photo, seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong strains to take a fourth place during the prologue of the Tour de France cycling race in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

6 works vie for coveted spot in Trafalgar Square

LONDON (AP)—A cake made from bricks and a big blue bird are among six artworks unveiled Thursday as finalists for a coveted place alongside Adm. Horatio Nelson in London's Trafalgar Square.

The square's "fourth plinth" is one of the city's major showcases for public art. Past works displayed there include Antony Gormley's "One & Other," which saw 2,400 members of the public stand atop the stone plinth for an hour at a time.

The current occupant is Yinka Shonibare's "Nelson's Ship in a Bottle," a replica of the naval hero's HMS Victory with multi-colored sails of African cloth.

Finalists to replace it next year include British sculptor Brian Griffiths' pink and yellow brick



AP

An art installation model titled "Sikandar" by British artist Hew Locke is seen on display during the unveiling of the six shortlisted proposals for Trafalgar Square's fourth plinth, at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London, Thursday, Aug. 19, 2010.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Grammys to be announced Dec. 1 in prime time

NEW YORK (AP)—The Grammy nominations will once again be unveiled in a prime-time special despite two years of low ratings. The Recording Academy this week announced a Dec. 1 live broadcast of the nominations. It will be part of a concert special on CBS at 10 p.m. Eastern. This will be the third year the nominations have been announced this way, after years of revealing them at a morning news conference. Each year they have performed poorly, despite top talent. The Grammys will be aired live Feb. 13 on CBS from Los Angeles.

Study: Smoking scenes on the decline in top movies

NEW YORK (AP)—A new study shows that there's less smoking depicted in movies in recent years. Tobacco use on the silver screen peaked in 2005 and has been on the decline ever since. Movies released last year showed about half the number of smoking incidents than films four years earlier. The study released Thursday looked at tobacco use in popular films from 1991 to 2009. Last year, about half of the 145 movies in the study

didn't show any smoking at all. For films aimed at children or teens, the percentage was even higher at 61 percent. However, slightly more than half of the movies rated PG-13 did show tobacco use. The report is in a publication from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

'Cannibal' band member Richard Lopez dies at 65

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Richard Lopez, an original member of the band Cannibal & the Headhunters which scored a 1965 hit with "Land of 1,000 Dances," has died. He was 65. Gene Aquilera, the group's manager during a comeback a decade ago, says Lopez died of lung cancer July 30 at a convalescent hospital in Garden Grove, Calif. Lopez and three other East Los Angeles high school students formed the band in the 1960s. Lopez was nicknamed "Scar," and "Cannibal" was Frank Garcia, who sings the iconic phrase "Naa na na na naa" on "Land of 1,000 Dances." It spent 14 weeks on Billboard's Top 100, reaching No. 30. The group opened for The Beatles and other groups. Lopez left before the band broke up in 1967. It reunited in 1996.

Elvis statue, campaign items sold at Blago auction

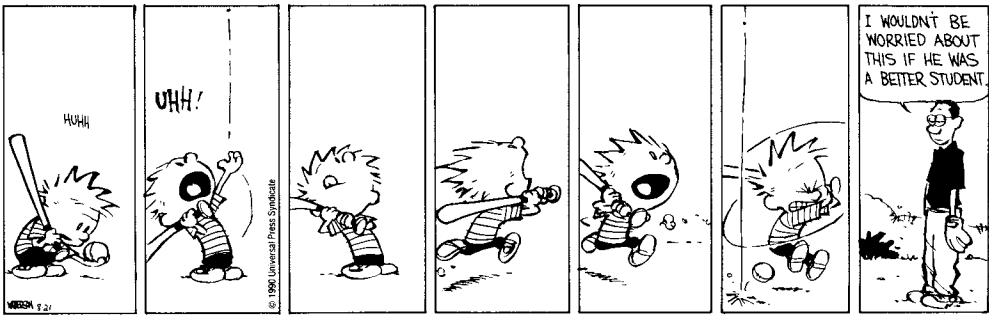
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, ILL. (AP)—Elvis Presley impersonators and a colorful inflatable bounce house are making for a festive auction of items connected to former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich.

A life-sized statue of Elvis Presley and a neon "Governor Blagojevich" sign were among the hot items available Thursday after a suburban Chicago storage facility evicted material being stored by Blagojevich's campaign fund.

The statue sold for \$20,500. Other items included a \$120 plaque rewarding Blagojevich for political leadership.

Pastimes

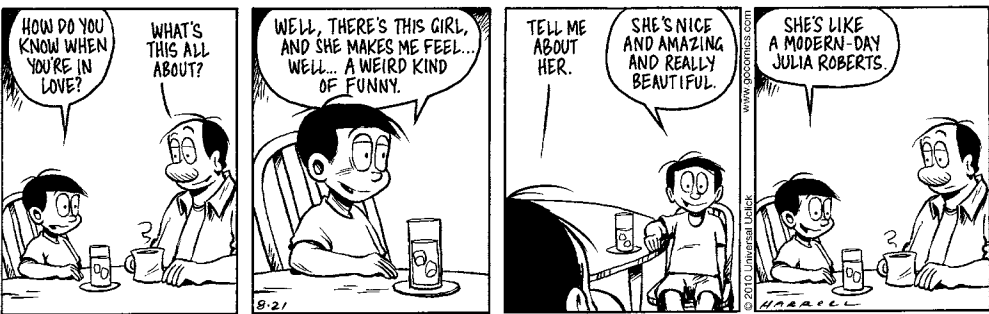
Calvin and Hobbes



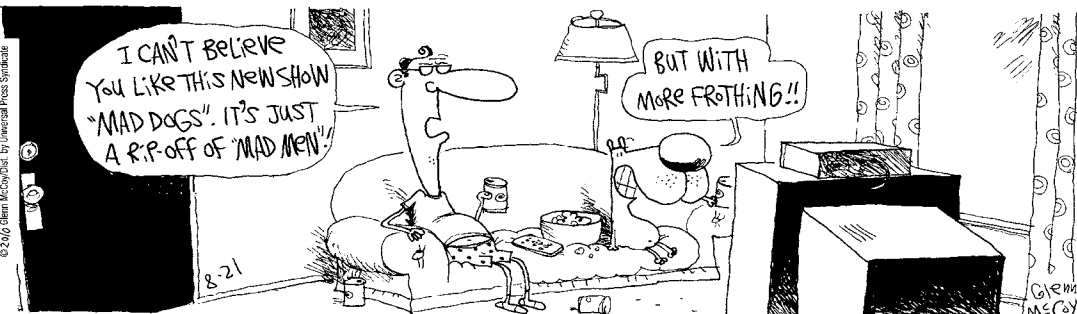
Garfield®



Adam@home



The Duplex



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Cow catcher

6 Drenched

12 Force

13 Old Rome, e.g.

14 Straight-en

15 Frank (Sl.)

16 Check

17 Hood-lums' group

19 Prized possession

20 Pickling agent

22 Curved line

24 Charged bit

27 Firewood quantity

29 Vicinity

32 Fairy tale family

35 Scattered seed

36 "Boola Boola" territory

37 Scrooge's outcry

38 NASCAR sponsor

40 Clothing

DOWN

42 "— Town"

44 Sunlight

46 Sgt. Snorkel's dog

50 Shown to be true

52 Snub

54 One with "I" trouble?

55 Medieval catapult

56 End

57 Soap opera extra, often

1 Sun Yat- —

5 The Star-Spangled Banner

6 In stitches

7 Greek closer

8 Mimic

9 Seafood entree from Alaska

10 Pennsylv-ania port

11 Consider

12 Mongrel

18 "So soon?"

21 Potsdam pronoun

23 "Norma —"

24 "Monty Python" opener

25 "Well, looky here!"

26 "Mary Tyler Moore Show" setting

28 False belief

30 Detergent brand

31 Bonfire remains

33 Stick with a kick

34 Founda-tion

39 Iron spotter

41 Sub

42 Pundit's column

43 Egg on

45 Initial stake

47 Clothing

48 Geneal-ogy chart

49 "— the fields we go"

51 Evening hour, on a sundial

53 Wilde-beest

Solution time: 27 mins.

V	A	L	L	O	A	M	X	R	A	Y		
E	M	U	U	L	N	A	E	U	R	O		
D	O	C	U	M	E	N	T	B	E	E	N	
A	K	I	M	B	O	A	C	E				
		P	A	S		D	O	C	I	L	E	
E	N	T	E	R		F	O	X		M	A	Y
G	O	A	D		K	I	R		J	A	D	E
A	L	L		D	A	B		F	U	M	E	S
D	O	C	E	N	T		P	O	D			
			J	A	Y		E	L	A	P	S	E
A	L	O	E		D	O	C	K	H	A	N	D
S	Y	N	C		I	R	A	S		L	O	G
P	E	S	T		D	E	N	Y		E	W	E

Yesterday's answer 8-21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12						13					
14						15					
16					17	18			19		
		20	21			22	23				
24	25	26		27		28		29	30	31	
32			33			34					
35					36				37		
		38		39		40			41		
42	43			44	45			46	47	48	49
50			51			52	53				
54						55					
56						57					

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Hayden Panettiere, 21; Alicia Witt, 35; Carrie-Anne Moss, 43; Kim Cattrall, 54

Happy Birthday: You may be tempted to follow your heart instead of your head but it will only lead to trouble. Let go of what isn't working. There will be a fine line separating the good from the bad in your life. It's most important you follow the right path. Hard work and concentrating on where you stand to gain the most will work the best. Your numbers are 3, 11, 15, 22, 29, 31, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): A change of plans may disrupt your day. Look beyond what everyone else is doing and concentrate on what you need to accomplish. Don't fear what's to come; think of it as a new adventure. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be open to innovative ideas and you will be a part of an experience you won't want to miss. There is plenty to learn and to contribute. Unexpected change will influence the way you do things in the future. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A little fun coupled with shopping and pampering will do you good. Getting together with someone you love or meeting someone special (if you are single), looks promising. Impulsive behavior will be due to emotional uncertainty. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Embellishing a story may make it more entertaining but in the end you will be considered a gossip. Stick to the truth. Problems with a

lover, child or close friend will be trying and will require patience. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let doubt cause you to miss out on something you should be taking part in or stop you from visiting someone you miss or want to get to know better. Inconsistency will be your downfall, so respond with confidence. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let the past drag you down. Instead, be progressive and forward-thinking. Success is ahead of you but only if you are prepared to make the effort. Speak from the heart and you will be heard. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): It's not the time for you to take the stage or share your opinions, ideas or plans. Keeping the peace will not be as easy as you hoped. Focus more on creating something you can offer others in the future. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let anyone stand in your way. If you want to pursue something, do so without feeling guilty. A practical approach will help someone who needs your assistance. A poor love relationship will hold you back. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A job you are working on isn't likely to turn out as planned. Take a break to mull over what went wrong. Open your doors to friends and enjoy the company of people who offer insight and entertaining conversation. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't jump into something impulsively, even if

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

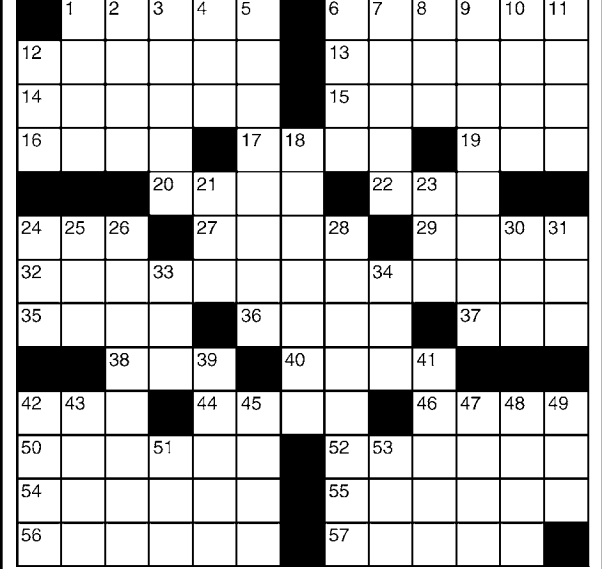
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it appears to be an amazing opportunity. Nothing is as it appears. Avoid joint ventures and you will save financially and maintain your reputation and the status quo. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will be faced with dissatisfied customers if you try to oversell. There is money to be made but it must be done by your own means, not someone else's. Someone from your past is likely to contact you. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Offer help and don't resist change and you will be ahead of the game by the end of the day. You must allow others to do as they please if you want to maintain the relationship and gain the right to speak openly about future plans. Be willing to compromise. ★★

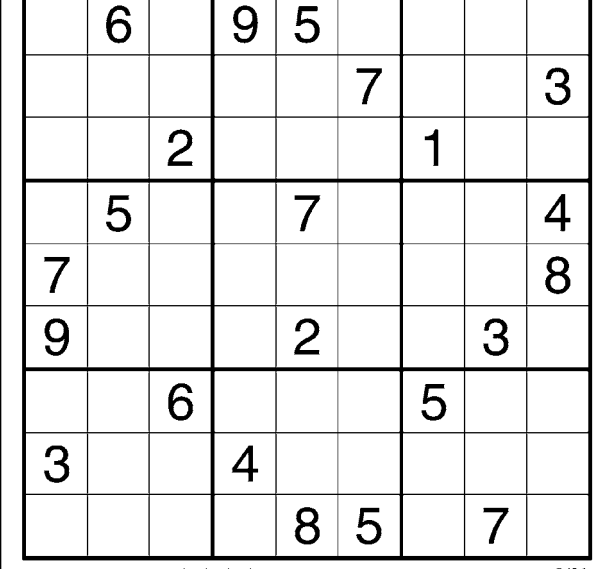
Birthday Baby: You consider all sides before making a move. You are practical with finance but emotional and passionate when it comes to love. Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 8/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	6	7	9	5	3	4	8	2
4	8	9	2	1	7	6	5	3
5	3	2	8	6	4	1	9	7
6	5	8	3	7	9	2	1	4
7	2	3	5	4	1	9	6	8
9	4	1	6	2	8	7	3	5
8	1	6	7	3	2	5	4	9
3	7	5	4	9	6	8	2	1
2	9	4	1	8	5	3	7	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 8/21

WONDERWORD® By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MEGAN FOX Solution: 8 letters

M	I	W	S	R	E	M	R	O	F	S	N	A	®	T
S	Y	M	B	O	L	A	B	E	O	U	F	G	®	Y
K	D	O	G	S	E	A	R	J	A	E	R	N	®	H
E	O	E	P	S	I	G	I	M	N	E	Y	I	®	O
L	B	E	A	H	T	I	A	F	E	S	L	S	Q	P
L	P	S	S	A	E	R	N	N	N	S	A	U	U	E
A	L	S	S	N	D	X	O	O	E	L	U	N	E	V
N	A	E	I	O	N	O	I	N	U	E	S	O	E	I
O	Y	N	O	J	T	S	I	F	G	I	T	T	N	T
M	A	N	N	T	S	Z	I	E	L	M	I	S	E	C
E	D	E	A	E	A	T	D	D	F	O	N	G	L	A
K	I	T	F	G	U	U	E	R	A	D	R	N	R	R
O	L	N	A	A	H	S	E	Q	U	E	L	L	I	A
P	O	M	E	R	A	N	I	A	N	I	L	K	D	T
C	H	B	R	U	N	E	T	T	E	E	M	I	N	A

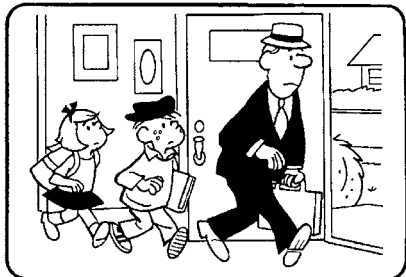
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Anime, Attractive, Austin, Beautiful, Body, Brian, Brunette, Confessions, Darlene, Dogs, Drama, Faith, Florida, Green, Hex, Holiday, Hope, Jonah, Kellan, Kingston, LaBeouf, Lead, Lily, Magazines, Model, Passion, Play, Pokemon, Pomeranian, Queen, Rhude, Role, Sequel, Shia, Strong, Sun, Swim, Symbol, Tattoo, Teenage, Tennessee, Tony, Transformers

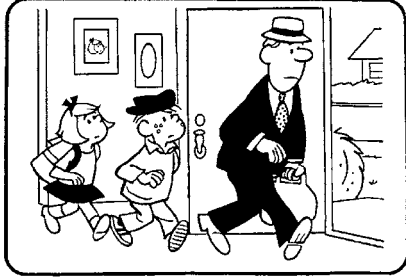
Yesterday's Answer: Earmarks

The NEW Treasury 9¢ coin is ordered by sending check or money order for \$10.05 each plus \$1.25 postage and handling each (\$14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, \$1.50 plus for each additional volume, to Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at spuzzles.com. Includes 130 puzzles, 33 of which are the larger 20 x 30 size!

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



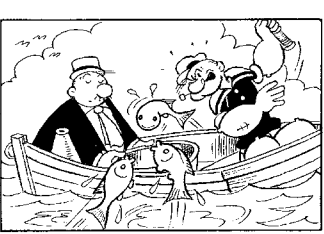
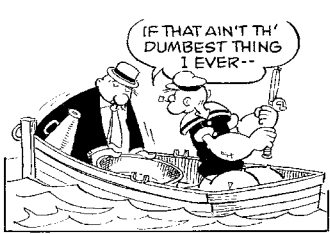
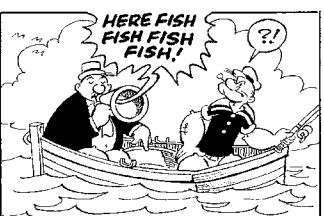
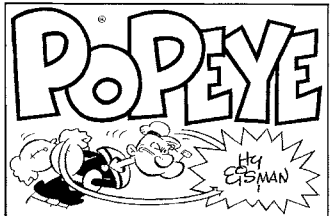
Differences: 1. Tie is dotted. 2. Window on door is gone. 3. Pic-ture on wall has been changed. 4. Man's briefcase is different. 5. Boy's books are gone. 6. Backpack strap is black.

Wishing Well®

3	5	7	2	3	5	7	3	2	5	4	2	4
Y	B	S	P	O	E	E	U	E	D	H	R	O
6	3	5	8	6	4	3	6	7	4	7	2	5
N	E	I	E	I	P	X	G	E	K	F	L	
8	2	3	8	5	7	5	8	6	5	4	5	2
V	E	T	O	I	M	G	L	H	E	S	N	C
3	6	4	6	4	3	5	8	3	8	4	2	7
E	T	A	T	R	N	T	V	D	I	E	T	O
4	2	8	7	2	7	2	3	7	8	4	7	8
R	L	N	D	I	E	F	H	R	G	E	A	S
3	4	8	6	8	2	3	4	7	6	4	3	7
E	A	U	I	C	E	L	L	T	M	I	P	I
4	8	7	8	4	6	7	6	4	8	6	8	6
Z	C	O	E	E	E	N	F	D	S	U	S	N

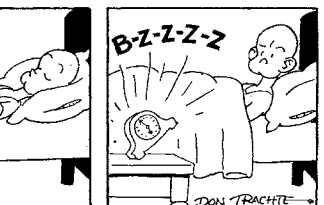
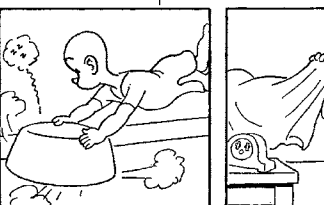
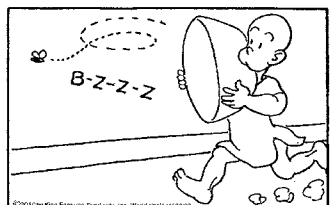
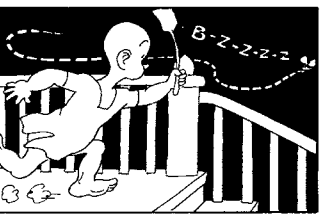
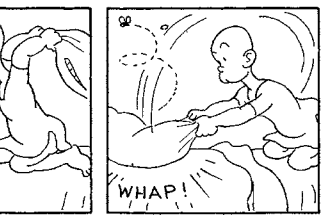
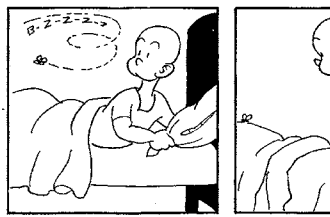
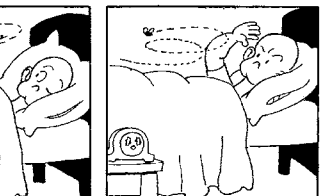
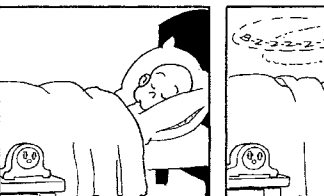
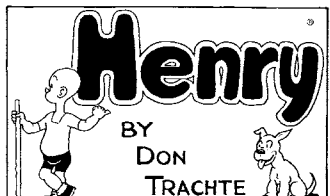
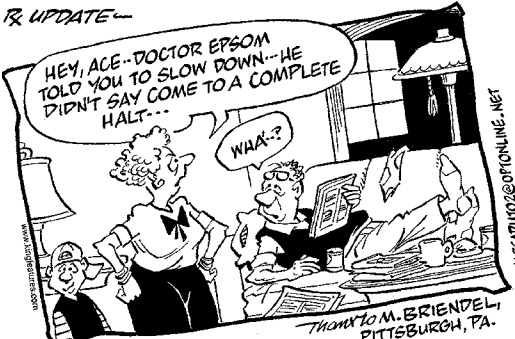
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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They'll Do It Every Time

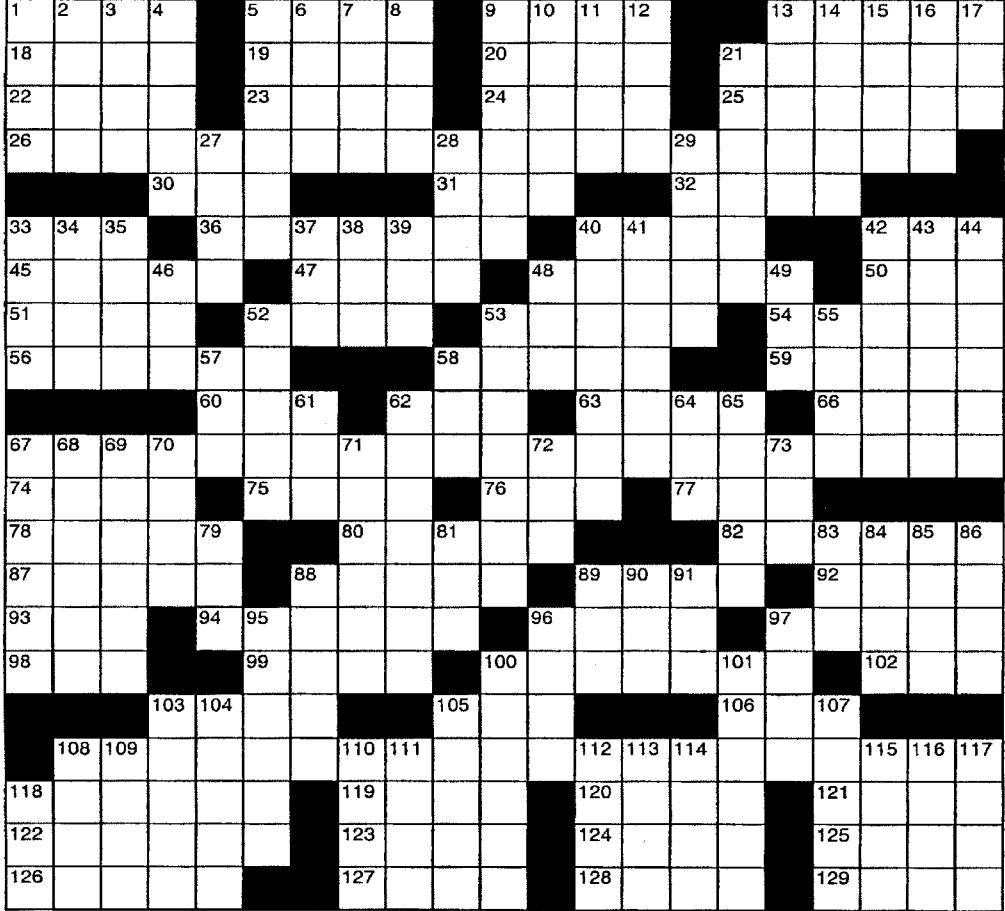
by Al Scaduto



Super Crossword

DAD

- ACROSS
- 1 Bargain
 - 5 Sagan or Sandburg
 - 9 Actress Arlene
 - 13 Trite
 - 18 — podrida
 - 19 Spread in a tub
 - 20 Jai —
 - 21 Brimmed hat
 - 22 Move like a hummingbird
 - 23 Runner Zatopek
 - 24 "The — is High" ('80 hit)
 - 25 Cashew kin
 - 26 Start of a remark by Bob Phillips
 - 30 Catchall abbr.
 - 31 Echidna's tidbit
 - 32 Sharpen
 - 33 Prune
 - 36 School subject
 - 40 "Beat it"
 - 42 Dandy
 - 45 Simpson of fashion
 - 47 Sausage segment
 - 48 TV's "— & Greg"
 - 50 Tax shelter
 - 51 Wolsey's successor
 - 52 Green house?
 - 53 Pianist Glenn
 - 54 Light beer
 - 56 Monstrous
 - 58 Worries
 - 59 PR concern
 - 60 Shuffleboard stick
 - 62 Bovine bellow
 - 63 Swarm (with)
 - 66 Word with man or maiden
 - 67 Middle of remark
 - 74 New York county
 - 75 Borscht ingredient
 - 76 A Stooze
 - 77 Slip up
 - 78 Michael of "Dynasty"
 - 80 Dietary need
 - 82 Harvest tool
 - 87 Sans emotion
 - 88 Heaped
 - 89 Entice
 - 92 — price
 - 93 Flagon filler
 - 94 Actress
 - 96 Wet blanket
 - 97 Highlight hair
 - 98 Rock's —
 - 99 Zepplin
 - 100 Make a mistake
 - 102 Ewe said it!
 - 103 Summer top
 - 105 Actress Leoni
 - 106 It may be split
 - 108 End of remark
 - 118 Golden girl
 - 119 Bustle
 - 120 Glum drop?
 - 121 Taj town
 - 122 Shrink back
 - 123 Mighty mite
 - 124 Concerned with
 - 125 Indigent
 - 126 Put on a pedestal
 - 127 Skirt shaper
 - 128 Playwright O'Casey
 - 129 Humorist Bombeck
 - 10 "He's making —"
 - 11 Muslim pilgrimage
 - 12 Place
 - 13 "Ma — Amie" ('70 tune)
 - 14 Fess up
 - 15 Cranny's companion
 - 16 "Rule Britannia" composer
 - 17 Youngster
 - 21 Comprehend
 - 27 Raison d'—
 - 28 Pull sharply
 - 29 Damocles' dangle
 - 33 Writer Charles
 - 34 Bouquet
 - 35 Neighbor of Bolivia
 - 37 Pie —
 - 38 Uproar
 - 39 Calligraphy supply
 - 40 Move to and fro
 - 41 WWII admiral
 - 42 Barber of Seville
 - 43 Beaver State
 - 44 Rear
 - 46 Permit
 - 48 Female goat
 - 49 Campbell of UB40
 - 52 Caption vase
 - 53 Cared for a Clydesdale
 - 55 In the thick of
 - 57 Expert
 - 58 Eddie of vaudeville
 - 61 Nationality suffix
 - 62 "Waltzing —" (1903 song)
 - 64 Pupil's place
 - 65 Doty inventor?
 - 67 Servile
 - 68 Prophet
 - 69 Neaten (up)
 - 70 Sock part
 - 71 Characterize
 - 72 Negative correlative
 - 73 Psychics Geller
 - 79 Rug type
 - 81 Arthur of "Maude"
 - 83 Mongrel
 - 84 Handle
 - 85 Kudrow of "Friends"
 - 86 James or Jones
 - 88 Cozy coat
 - 89 "Hulk" Ferrigno
 - 90 Decorative vase
 - 91 Chianti color
 - 95 Comic Howie
 - 96 Dull
 - 97 Set loose
 - 100 Suit
 - 101 Screenwriter Nora
 - 103 High-toned guy?
 - 104 Actress MacDowell
 - 105 Henry VIII's house
 - 107 Dumbstruck
 - 108 "Citizen Kane"
 - 109 Somewhat, to Solti
 - 110 For men only
 - 111 Lorre role
 - 112 Patriot James
 - 113 Hawaii's state bird
 - 114 "Cheerio!"
 - 115 Perpetual assistant
 - 116 Starting at
 - 117 Binky's "— Road"
 - 118 It may be strapless

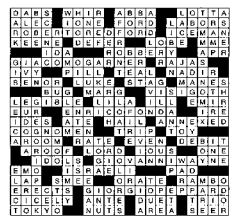


- the film "Alien"?
5. ABBREVIATIONS: What was the abbreviation D.A.R. stand for?
6. MUSIC: Who wrote the Beatles' song "Here Comes the Sun"?
7. MEASUREMENTS: The word "octennial" refers to a period of how many years?
8. MATH: What is an improper fraction?
9. GEOGRAPHY: What did the African nation of Burkina Faso used to be called?
10. RELIGION: What was Pope John Paul II's real name?

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1. U.S. STATES: What time zone is the state of Alabama in?
2. LANGUAGE: What does the Greek prefix "crypto" mean?
3. SCIENCE: What does an ichthyologist study?
4. MOVIES: What was the name of the spaceship in
5. Daughters of the American Revolution
6. George Harrison
7. Eight years
8. A fraction where the numerator is greater than or equal to its denominator.
9. Upper Volta
10. Karol Wojtyla

Saturday's Answers



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

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Baseball great Clemens indicted in steroid case



WASHINGTON (AP) — Roger

Clemens was vehement: "Let me be clear. I have never taken steroids or HGH," he told a House committee in 2008. Now, instead of the Hall of Fame, baseball's seven-time Cy Young winner could go to prison after being indicted by a federal grand jury Thursday for allegedly lying to Congress.

The case writes a new chapter in one of baseball's worst scandals, the rampant use of performance-enhancing drugs in the 1990s and early 2000s, and leaves Clemens' legacy in jeopardy.

The six-count indictment alleges that Clemens obstructed a congressional inquiry with 15 different statements made under oath, including denials that he had ever used steroids or human growth hormone.

Former Rep. Tom Davis of Virginia, the top Republican on the House panel at the time of Clemens' testimony, called it "a self-inflicted wound."

Clemens had been prominently mentioned in the Mitchell Report, Major League Baseball's own accounting of its steroid problem, and he went to Capitol Hill on his own to clear his name.

"Clemens was not under subpoena. He came voluntarily," Davis said. "And I sat there in the office with (committee chairman) Henry Waxman and said, 'Whatever you do, don't lie.'"

Clemens was sticking to his story Thursday. He insisted he was telling the truth, again denying any wrongdoing on or off the field.

"Roger is looking forward to his day in court," Clemens lawyer Rusty Hardin told

a news conference. "He is happy this has finally happened. We have known for some time this was going to happen. We'll let everything get taken care of in court."

"I never took HGH or Steroids. And I did not lie to Congress," Clemens said on Twitter. "I look forward to challenging the Governments accusations, and hope people will keep an open mind until trial. I appreciate all the support I have been getting. I am happy to finally have my day in court."

Hardin said federal prosecutors made Clemens a plea offer but he rejected it. Hardin declined to comment on details of the proposed plea deal—which ordinarily involves admitting to a crime while avoiding the scenario of a multiple-count indictment as happened in the Clemens case.

Clemens faces a combined maximum sentence of 30 years in prison and a \$1.5 million fine if convicted on all charges. However, under U.S. sentencing guidelines, he would probably face no more than 15 to 21 months in prison.

Clemens is just the latest superstar to be ensnared in baseball's steroid scandal. All-time home run king Barry Bonds is scheduled to go on trial in March on charges of lying to a federal grand jury when he said he never knowingly used performance-enhancing drugs. Slugger Mark McGwire admitted earlier this year to using steroids.

What once seemed to be a he-said vs. he-said dispute between Clemens and his former trainer, Brian McNamee, once the New York Yankees' strength and conditioning coach, escalated into a federal case. The grand jury heard



AP
In this Feb. 13, 2008, file photo shows former New York Yankees baseball pitcher Roger Clemens testifying before the House Oversight, and Government Reform Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington.

testimony from McNamee, who gave federal authorities syringes he said were used to inject Clemens with drugs.

Hardin said that although many have argued that Clemens should simply admit he took steroids, "the problem is nobody ever talks about what he should have done if he didn't do it."

"And he didn't do it and he's adamant about that and always has been. Today is just another continuing part of that saga," Hardin said.

Clemens, who turned 48 this month, ranks ninth on the career list with 354 victories. He once was considered a certain first-ballot Hall of Famer, but getting in at all is now in question.

"In my opinion, he's a Hall of Famer. Period," said New York Yankees slugger Lance Berkman, who played with Clemens in Houston. "Whatever you want to say about the guy, he belongs in the Hall of Fame. In my opinion, legacy-wise, I guess that's up to—I mean, 200 years from now, who cares?"

"But in the short term, I guess,

he may have some things to address," Berkman said. "He's a big boy. He'll face up to whatever it is. But it doesn't change my opinion of him at all."

Yankees catcher Jorge Posada, who played with Clemens on two World Series championship teams, said he would back his former teammate.

"I'm going to support him and I'm going to be behind him and that's all I can say," Posada said.

MLB did not comment on the indictment. But many in the game saw it as further validation of the Mitchell Report, released in December 2007.

Clemens was singled out by name 82 times in the 409-page report, compiled by former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell. Much of the information on Clemens came from McNamee.

Former MVP Jose Canseco, who has admitted his own steroid use and accused others, was the most-mentioned player in the Mitchell Report with 105 references.

"I am saddened to hear of the indictment of my friend and former teammate, Roger Clemens," Canseco said in a statement through his attorney. "I am not aware of any use of steroids by Roger."

Four days after the report was released, Clemens issued a categorical denial in a statement through his agent.

"I am disappointed that my 25 years in public life have apparently not earned me the benefit of the doubt, but I understand that Senator Mitchell's report has raised many serious questions. I plan to publicly answer all of those questions at the appropriate time in the appropriate way. I only ask that in the meantime people not rush to judgment," Clemens said.

Clemens and McNamee testified under oath at the 2008 hearing before a House committee and contradicted each other about whether the pitcher had used PEDs.

McNamee has said he injected Clemens more than a dozen times with steroids and HGH from 1998 to 2001. Clemens says McNamee was lying.

"As far as we're concerned, it's vindication," Earl Ward, one of McNamee's attorneys, said of the indictment.

Clemens' case was assigned to U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton, who presided over the perjury and obstruction trial of Vice President Dick Cheney's former chief of staff, I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby. No date was set for Clemens' initial court appearance.

In his defiant testimony to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Clemens said, "I've been accused of something I'm not guilty of."

Longtime Clemens friend and teammate Andy Pettitte told

congressional investigators that Clemens confided to him that he had used HGH.

"I believe Andy has misheard" the conversation, Clemens responded. He said he had simply mentioned to Pettitte a TV show about three older men who used HGH to get back their quality of life.

Pettitte was taking part in a charity event after New York's 11-5 win over Detroit at Yankee Stadium on Thursday and wasn't immediately commenting, the team said.

Clemens was an 11-time All-Star. During a 23-year career that ended in 2007, he played for the Boston Red Sox, the Toronto Blue Jays, the Yankees and the Houston Astros and struck out 4,672 with a lifetime 3.12 ERA.

The Clemens matter was the second referral the congressional committee made to the Justice Department. The other involved Miguel Tejada, who pleaded guilty to making misleading statements to committee investigators in 2005 regarding his knowledge of performance-enhancing drugs.

"The indictment of Roger Clemens comes as no surprise to me," said Victor Conte, founder of the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative, the center of a drug scandal that enveloped Bonds and other star athletes.

"In my opinion, the case against Clemens is far stronger than the case against Barry Bonds. Brian McNamee is an eyewitness who will testify against Clemens and there appears to be strong physical evidence against him as well," he said. "I believe Roger Clemens is in a lot of trouble."

Conte pleaded guilty to steroid distribution in July 2005 and served four months in jail.

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Paul Konerko had five hits and four RBIs as the Chicago White Sox won 11-0 on Thursday to put an abrupt end to the Minnesota's surge in the American League.

Konerko hit his 31st home run of the season and had a double and three singles among Chicago's 21 hits to help the Sox avoid a sweep and shave the Twins' lead to four games in the AL Central.

Athletics 4, Rays 3

In Oakland, Cliff Pennington hit a go-ahead two-run double in the sixth inning to lift Oakland to a tight win over Tampa Bay.

Rays starter Trevor Cahill shook off an unusually rough start to record his team-leading 13th win. Having only allowed one earned run in his previous 33 innings, Cahill gave up two homers and was headed for a loss until Pennington's hit off reliever Dan Wheeler (2-1).

Yankees 11, Tigers 5

In New York, Robinson Cano hit a tiebreaking double and a two-run homer in New York's nine-run sixth inning as the Yankees beat Detroit.

Cano has homered in three straight games while batting fourth in the order. He had three hits and scored three times for the Yankees, who took the final three of a four-game series with the fading Tigers.

White Sox rout Twins, 11-0

Angels 7, Red Sox 2

In Boston, Hideki Matsui hit a three-run homer, then drove in another run with a bases-loaded walk as Los Angeles won its first game in ten against Boston this season.

Angels starter Ervin Santana (13-8) allowed two runs in seven-plus innings. Kevin Jepsen pitched out of Santana's bases-loaded, no-outs jam in the eighth.

Orioles 4, Rangers 0

In Baltimore, the hosts used a four-run seventh inning to beat slumping Texas.

Orioles rookie Brian Matusz (5-12) pitched eight scoreless innings, walking only one and striking out six. Only two Rangers reached second base and none made it to third.

Indians 7, Royals 3

In Kansas City, Shin-Soo Choo hit a tiebreaking RBI single in Cleveland's five-run eighth inning that lifted the Indians over Kansas City.

Cleveland overcame committing a season-worst five errors and having a runner thrown out at every base.

Giants 5, Phillies 2

In Philadelphia, Jonathan Sanchez allowed just

two hits while pitching into the ninth inning, steering the San Francisco Giants to a win over the Philadelphia Phillies that averted a sweep in the clash of National League wild-card contenders.

Sanchez (9-8) became the first Giants starting pitcher to record a win in 15 games. No runner reached second base against Sanchez, who retired 15 straight after hitting a batter with a pitch in the fourth.

Dodgers 2, Rockies 0

In Los Angeles, Ted Lilly threw his third career shutout as Los Angeles downed Colorado.

Lilly (7-8) had a season-high 11 strikeouts, walked two and retired 19 consecutive batters in his fourth straight start since joining the Dodgers.

Padres 5, Cubs 3

In Chicago, San Diego completed its first four-game sweep of Chicago in its 42-year history.

Will Venable hit a two-run single amid four runs in the seventh inning, helping the NL West-leading Padres to their 10th win in 11 games.

Nationals 6, Braves 2

In Atlanta, Nyjer Morgan had two hits and scored two runs in his return from the disabled list, lifting Washington over Atlanta.

Nationals starter John Lannan (5-5) gave up two runs in 5 1-3 innings to win his third straight start.

Reds 9, Diamondbacks 5

In Phoenix, Ramon Hernandez and Jay Bruce hit back-to-back homers in the fourth inning to break a scoreless tie and help Cincinnati to victory over Arizona.

The victory gave the Reds a three-game sweep over the NL West cellar dwellers, and was Cincinnati's sixth straight win overall, the team's longest streak of the season.

Astros 3, Mets 2

In Houston, Carlos Lee hit a three-run homer in the seventh inning to power Houston over New York.


Angel Sanchez and Hunter Pence singled with no outs before Lee drove Pat Misch's next pitch over left field. Misch (0-2) was rolling before the trouble in the seventh, retiring 16 straight hitters.

Marlins 4, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, Alex Sanabia pitched 7 2-3 strong innings to guide Florida to victory over Pittsburgh.

Sanabia (2-1) allowed one run, struck out five and walked none in his fifth career start. He was recalled from the minors to replace the injured Sean West in the rotation.

1st-round leader Atwal ties Wyndham record with 61

**GREENSBORO, North Carolina**
(AP)—Arjun Atwal of India tied a tournament record with a 61 and took a two-stroke lead at the Wyndham Championship on Thursday.

Atwal matched Carl Pettersson's 2-year-old mark at the par-70 Sedgefield Country Club. He was 9 under through the first round of the U.S. PGA Tour's final event before the playoffs.

Brandt Snedeker, who won this event in 2007, shot a 63.

John Rollins, Kevin Streelman, Lucas Glover, Boo Weekley, David Toms and Jeev Milkha Singh were at 64, and six players shot 65s during an occasionally wet day that left the greens soft and the leaderboard crowded at Sedgefield.

It was an encouraging start for Atwal, who lost his tour card last month and had to play his way into this event in a Monday qualifier across town at Forest Oaks Country Club—where this tourna-

ment was held from 1977-2007.

He played that course twice before, finishing sixth in 2004, and wound up shooting a 67 to share first place with three other qualifiers. No Monday qualifier has won a tournament since Fred Wadsworth did it at the 1986 Southern Open.

"You get used to making a lot of birdies in the Monday qualifier—otherwise you won't make it," Atwal said. "I kind of continued that today."

The loss of his card capped a series of events that began when he injured his shoulders last year while lifting weights. He received a minor medical extension, but when he came up short on the money list following the RBC Canadian Open, his card was history.

He isn't eligible for the FedEx Cup playoffs that begin next week in New Jersey, not even if he wins. But he can claim his card for 2011 with a victory—either here or at a fall series tournament—or a climb up the money lists of the PGA or Nationwide tours. "I prefer to win," Atwal said with a laugh.

Three more days like this, and he'll almost certainly take care of that.

Atwal started his bogey-free round on the back nine, made the turn at 4 under and birdied three of his final four holes, sinking a 7-foot putt on No. 9 to cap things.

His big day also included a rare birdie on the peskiest hole of the day—the 18th.

There were a course-low 10 birdies and a course-high 54 bogeys on the freshly lengthened, 507-yard par 4 that wound up knocking several players down a peg on the leaderboard.

Snedeker, who was at 8 under through 17, sent his second shot onto the back fringe on 18, chipped well past the pin and left his 35-foot par putt about 3 feet short to close with a bogey and fall off the lead.

"I realized that it's going to be a long tournament, a long week," Snedeker said. "A guy that shoots 9 under's not going to shoot 9 under for four straight rounds, so it's going to be kind of, wait until you get hot, and when you get hot, take advantage of it, and when you don't, try to minimize your mistakes."

As for the tournaments, teams will be asked to bring referees and pay a bond, part of which will go to the host country to offset tournament costs. The confederation will also establish guidelines for hosting countries and participating teams and will hold age group tournaments during school breaks.

sistance of the local communities will be crucial for the success of these events.

Local communities will be asked for housing and food assistance for visiting teams. For hotels that will offer accommodations, the confederation will try to work out a low rate. The group is eyeing a \$25 per day accommodation cost.

points in the fourth canto, tried to bring order back to Bayani, but fell short, as SIS preserved the win after canning crucial free throws in the homestretch.

SIS scored its last eight points from the stripe with John Jugos going 3-for-4, Bryan Ajoste hitting 2-for-5 and Diaz, Nat Banatasa, and Galarse adding one free throw each.

Diaz led all scorers with 45 points. Galarse added 18, while Moises and Ajoste contributed 16 and 10 markers, respectively.

In the first game, MDX drew 32 big points from Kae Bernardo to keep the defending champions undefeated record.

MDX had a balance scoring atck, as it had four other players tallying double figures. Kelvin Fitial and Dave Sablan nailed 16 apiece, Bon Tamayo chipped in 14, and Jun Pantaleon had 11.

The Cavite-MDX tiff was a close game in the first three quarters before MDX started pulling away in the fourth and entered the final two minutes of the match ahead by 12, 94-82.

coaches firsthand," he added.

This year's defending champions in the half marathon race are Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel and Mamiko Oshima-Berger.

Kabiriel completed last year's race in one hour, 36 minutes, and nine seconds for back-to-back wins in the men's division. Matthew Mancao was the second best finisher in the men's division last year, submitting 1:36:57, while Ronald Villafria came in third with his 1:39:31.

Oshima-Berger ruled the first four editions of the race, crossing the finish line of the event last year in 1:46:17. Kimiko

much \$150 depending on the number of participants. Women participants will only have separate prizes if there are at least 10 entries.

Youth bowlers (12 to 19 years old), meanwhile, will duke it out in the Fiji Water Prince and Princess of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament in Day 1 of the monthly competition. Entry fee is \$10 for the Fiji Water Prince and

Princess of the Lanes.

Youth bowlers must also pay the annual SBA youth membership fee of \$10 if they wish to qualify for the annual roll off. The Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tournament aims to crown 12 monthly champions through the course of the year.

For early registration and payment, see or contact Gigi or Ross Zapanta at 288-5627 or email zapanta@pticom.com. (PR)

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	75	46	.620	—
Tampa Bay	74	47	.612	1
Boston	69	53	.566	6 1/2
Toronto	63	57	.525	11 1/2
Baltimore	43	79	.352	32 1/2

Central Division

Minnesota	70	51	.579	—
Chicago	66	55	.545	4
Detroit	58	63	.479	12
Kansas City	51	70	.421	19
Cleveland	50	71	.413	20

West Division

Texas	67	53	.558	—
Los Angeles	61	61	.500	7
Oakland	60	60	.500	7
Seattle	48	73	.397	19 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	71	50	.587	—
Philadelphia	68	52	.567	2 1/2
Florida	60	60	.500	10 1/2
New York	60	61	.496	11
Washington	52	69	.430	19

Central Division

Cincinnati	70	51	.579	—
St. Louis	65	53	.551	3 1/2
Milwaukee	57	64	.471	13
Houston	53	67	.442	16 1/2
Chicago	50	72	.410	20 1/2
Pittsburgh	40	81	.331	30

West Division

San Diego	73	47	.608	—
San Francisco	68	54	.557	6
Colorado	62	58	.517	11
Los Angeles	62	60	.508	12
Arizona	47	75	.385	27

Yesterday's Games

Washington 6, Atlanta 2

San Diego 5, Chicago Cubs 3

Florida 4, Pittsburgh 2

San Francisco 5, Philadelphia 2

Houston 3, N.Y. Mets 2

Cincinnati 9, Arizona 5

L.A. Dodgers 2, Colorado 0

N.Y. Yankees 11, Detroit 5

Baltimore 4, Texas 0

L.A. Angels 7, Boston 2

Chicago White Sox 11, Minnesota 0

Cleveland 7, Kansas City 3

Oakland 4, Tampa Bay 3

WYNDHAM CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

GREENSBORO, North Carolina (AP)—Scores from the \$5.1 million Wyndham Championship U.S. PGA golf tournament on the par-70 (35-35), 7,117-yard (6,505-meter) Sedgefield Country Club Course (a-denotes amateur):

FIRST ROUND

Arjun Atwal	30-31-61
Brandt Snedeker	33-30-63
John Rollins	34-30-64
Kevin Streelman	30-34-64
Lucas Glover	33-31-64
Boo Weekley	30-34-64
David Toms	32-32-64
Jeev Milkha Singh	31-33-64
Jay Williamson	31-34-65
Jason Gore	34-31-65
John Mallinger	33-32-65
Blake Adams	33-32-65
Scott McCarron	33-32-65
Spencer Levin	31-34-65
Craig Barlow	31-35-66
Bob Estes	31-35-66
Scott Piercy	32-34-66
Jeff Quinney	33-33-66
Andres Romero	32-34-66
Aaron Baddeley	31-35-66
Michael Sim	32-34-66
Kevin Na	31-35-66
Josh Teater	33-33-66
Kent Jones	31-35-66
Jason Dufner	30-36-66
Chris Tidland	33-33-66
Michael Connell	32-34-66
Marc Leishman	34-32-66
Skip Kendall	32-34-66
Webb Simpson	32-34-66
Michael Letzig	33-33-66
Chris Couch	33-33-66
Jerry Kelly	33-33-66
Tim Petrovic	32-34-66
Jonathan Byrd	32-34-66
Briny Baird	32-34-66
Garrett Willis	32-34-66
Martin Laird	34-33-67
Chris DiMarco	33-34-67
Mike Weir	32-35-67
Richard S. Johnson	33-34-67
James Nitties	31-36-67
Charles Warren	33-34-67
Graham DeLaet	33-34-67
Glen Day	33-34-67
Paul Stankowski	33-34-67
Drew Weaver	34-33-67
Chris Riley	32-35-67
Fredrik Jacobson	36-31-67
Troy Merritt	33-34-67
James Driscoll	32-35-67

Cameron Beckman

34-33-67

Tim Herron

33-34-67

Mathias Gronberg

33-34-67

Aron Price

33-34-67

John Merrick

34-34-68

Joe Durant

34-34-68

Roland Thatcher

32-36-68

Marco Dawson

33-35-68

Chad Collins

31-37-68

Chris Stroud

32-36-68

Trevor Immelman

33-35-68

Justin Leonard

31-37-68

Will MacKenzie

32-36-68

John Senden

32-36-68

Troy Matteson

33-35-68

Brad Faxon

31-37-68

Cameron Percy

33-35-68

Tom Pernice, Jr.

34-34-68

Woody Austin

35-33-68

Jeff Maggert

32-36-68

John Daly

35-33-68

Ryan Moore

32-36-68

Davis Love III

35-33-68

Mark Wilson

34-34-68

Billy Mayfair

34-34-68

Chris Wilson

34-34-68

Kevin Johnson

32-36-68

Garth Mulroy

34-34-68

Brian Harman

32-36-68

Brian Duncan

32-36-68

Tom Gillis

33-36-69

Steve Marino

35-34-69

Robert Garrigus

36-33-69

Henrik Stenson

35-34-69

Ryuji Imada

32-37-69

Greg Owen

36-33-69

Omar Uresti

33-36-69

Matt Hill

35-34-69

Cameron Tringale

34-35-69

Brian Stuard

33-36-69

J.P. Hayes

35-34-69

Kirk Triplett

34-35-69

Chris Smith

36-33-69

George McNeill

32-37-69

Carl Pettersson

34-35-69

Brian Gay

33-36-69

D.J. Trahan

33-36-69

Bill Haas

34-35-69

Nathan Green

34-35-69

Steve Lowery

33-36-69

Alex Prugh

35-34-69

Kris Blanks

36-33-69

Seung-Yul Noh

34-35-69

Steve Wheatcroft

35-34-69

Todd Hamilton

34-36-70

Frank Lickliter II

36-34-70

Dean Wilson

32-38-70

Kevin Stadler

35-35-70

Anthony Kim

35-35-70

Brett Wetterich

37-33-70

David Duval

35-35-70

Mark Hensby

34-36-70

Brent Delahoussaye

35-35-70

Curt Sanders

35-35-70

Nicholas Thompson

32-38-70

Rocco Mediate

34-36-70

Derek Lamely

33-37-70

Daniel Chopra

34-36-70

Lee Janzen

34-36-70

Brendan Gielow

33-37-70

Jerry Richardson, Jr.

35-35-70

Patrick Moore

34-36-70

Michael Bradley

35-36-71

J.J. Henry

35-36-71

Jeff Gove

35-36-71

Jarrod Lyle

35-36-71

Brett Quigley

35-36-71

Greg Chalmers

34-37-71

Andrew McLardy

34-37-71

Martin Flores

34-37-71

Roger Tambellini

35-36-71

Carlos Franco

34-38-72

Alex Cejka

37-35-72

Robert Gamez

39-33-72

Fred Couples

36-36-72

Craig Bowden

34-38-72

Mark Brooks

36-36-72

a-Tanner Kesterson

34-38-72

Ted Purdy

37-35-72

Mathew Goggin

37-35-72

Vance Veazey

37-35-72

Henrik Bjornstad

34-38-72

Jimmy Walker

38-35-73

Rod Pampling

36-37-73

Steve Flesch

36-37-73

Johnson Wagner

35-38-73

David Lutterus

35-38-73

Cliff Kresge

36-38-74

Greg Kraft

36-38-74

Brenden Pappas

34-40-74

Joe Ogilvie

37-37-74

Jerod Turner

36-39-75

Eric Shriver

38-37-75

Rich Barcelo

37-39-76

Matt Bettencourt

WD

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

UFO STANDINGS

Open Division

MDX Chow Queen	3	0
MAFEA-Alfi	2	0
SIP-Mobil	2	0
Cavite	1	2
SIS-Marianas Wireless	1	2
NMBA-Island Apparel	0	2
Bayani-Soul Jazz	0	3

Masters Division

VisMinda-Kids Cove	2	0
Cabalen-Wings Travel	2	0
Laguna-Moonlight	0	1
MDX-PTC	0	1
MAFEA	0	2

MICRONESIAN

From Page 28

between the Micronesian Games and have U19 tournaments in the year following the MBT and the Micro Games.

With several tournaments in the confederation's calendar, the group said as-

MDX

From Page 28

Soul-Jazz and pulled off a 109-107 victory, giving the former its first win in three games. Bayani is still winless after three matches.

Bayani boosted its chances for its first win in the seven-team league when it got off to a jackrabbit start, leading by double digits at the end of the first quarter, 32-23. Bayani led by as much as 14 in the opening minutes of the second canto before Tony Diaz, Ernie Moises, and Leo Galarse put their acts together and anchored an SIS comeback.

Diaz drilled 11 in the second canto, Moises added 10, and Galarse had six, as SIS forced a deadlock by the end of the first half, 52-all.

Diaz continued to sizzle for SIS in the second half, firing 16 points in the third quarter and

7th Micronesesian Games Sidelights

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO



The CNMI baseball officials pose for a group photo during the parade of nations.



The CNMI bets in the ocean swim huddle before the start of the race.



Mamiko Oshima-Berger stands in the podium with her gold medal in the 10K run. Joining her were two Guam runners.



Members of the CNMI swim team pose for a group photo before joining the opening ceremony for the 7th Micronesesian Games at the Palau National Track and Field early this month in Koror. Joining them is CNMI basketball referee Manny Sitchon, left.



Members of the CNMI men's outrigger canoe team near the shore during the 1,500m race.



CNMI table tennis team member Steve Lim takes video footage of the opening ceremony.



Participants of the ocean swim in the waters off Palau Pacific Resort in Koror begin the first lap of the five-kilometer race.



Members of the CNMI men's outrigger canoe team pose for a group photo before the start of the first day of competition at the Meyuns Seaplane Ramp.



CNMI Gov. Benigno Fitia, center front row, and Guam Gov. Felix Camacho chat while awaiting the start of the opening ceremony for the 7th Micronesesian Games.



Members of the CNMI baseball team enjoy a light moment during the opening ceremony.



Baseball great
Clemens indicted
in steroid case

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Saipan Tribune Sports

WYNDHAM
CHAMPIONSHIP

1st-round leader Atwal ties
Wyndham record with 61

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28 SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 2010

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Micronesian cage group revived

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Inactive for more than five years, the Micronesian Basketball Confederation has been revived to push for the development of the sport in the region.



The confederation, which had its last tournament in 2004 in Guam, was resurrected during the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau with cage officials from seven participating island-nations agreeing to take the necessary steps to elevate the standard of basketball in Micronesia.

The first step was to elect officials of MBC, which will now be headed by president Len Isotoff of Guam. Palau's Topps Sungino was elected secretary general.

The next order of business was to review the current charter and then the group identified new approaches to conducting tournaments, starting from various age groups in the youth division to senior players.

The confederation agreed to hold sub-regional tournament for U15 and U17 age groups both in the men's and women's divisions. The sub-regional tournament will be divided into two groups with the Eastern block composed of the Marshall Islands, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Chuuk. The Western group will have the CNMI, Guam, Yap, and Palau.

The confederation believed having two sub-regional tournaments will provided member island-nations the quality competitions they need without spending too much money on travel costs.

Besides the tournaments for U15 and U17, the confederation also decided to host the Micronesian Basketball Tournament for seniors every two years in

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The CNMI's Dan Barcinas goes for a layup against a Pohnpei defender during their game in the 7th Micronesian Games at the Palau National Gymnasium in Koror early this month.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Banzai Half Marathon set for Sept. 11

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 5th Annual POWERade Banzai Memorial Half Marathon and Fun Run will hit the road on Sept. 11.

The off-road 13.1-mile race from Banzai Cliff via downhill and uphill trails will kick off at 6am, while the fun run will begin at 7am. Registration for both races will start at 5:15am.



Race organizer

Brad Ruzsala is encouraging running enthusiasts to join the fifth edition of the event, as proceeds from next month's tournament will be donated to the Independents Football Club.

"This year, the proceeds go to the Independents Football Club. See BANZAI on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mamiko Oshima-Berger, seen here nearing the finish line of the 10k race in the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau early this month, will go for her fifth straight win in next month's Banzai Half Marathon.

MDX still clean; SIS gains first win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Samahang Ilonggo sa Saipan-Marianas Wireless broke into the win column,

while defending champion MDX-Chow Queen remained unbeaten, following their separate victories in the 2010 United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Reinforced Basketball League Thursday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

MDX played in the first game and defeated Cavite, 99-93 to improve to a perfect 3-0 record. SIS was pitted against Bayani

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SIS-Marianas Wireless' Leo Galarse sneaks into the defense of Bayani-Soul Jazz's Perry Inos, right, and Jeff Pagarao, left, during their game in the UFO caging Thursday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

August roll-off Sunday and Monday



The 2010 August Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes and April Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes will be held this Sunday, Aug. 22, and Monday, Aug. 23, at the Capi-

tal Bowling Center in Garapan. Sunday's roll-off begins at 4pm, while Monday's competition starts at 6pm. Registration starts 30 minutes prior to game time. Awarding ceremonies immediately follow the end of competition on Monday.

The competition is exclu-

sive for members of the Saipan Bowling Association with participants limited to the first 60 entries for each day.

Members have the option to bowl on the Sunday or Monday, or on both days, provided that the \$15 entry fee is paid. Bowlers who did not bowl on

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